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OUR PUBLIC MEN.

Now that the European difficulty has been handed over to an approaching Congress, we are all of us likely to take increased interest for a while in our domestic politics; and a very pretty state of things they present to us. What the upshot of the latest complication may be it is impossible to predict. But, meanwhile, at the bottom of the situation may be observed certain phenomena by no means promising, and which may well excite the attention of clear-headed observers. The first and most prominent of these is the growing dissatisfaction of the

country with its existing breed of statesmen. This manifests itself in many ways—sometimes in apathetic indifference to the professions of these gentlemen, *pro* or *con*, whatever is the topic in hand; sometimes in loud opposition to them; and always in the form of a diminished respect for the House of Commons. It was justly observed by the late Dr. Arnold as the most important symptoms in the Wilkite agitation of last century, that the House of Commons then became for the first time the object of popular opposition. The Crown and the Peers had been assailed before, but the House of Commons had been viewed as the organ

by which such assaults were to be made. Lately, however, that House itself has been attacked from out of doors. We have lived to see this tendency expand itself—we do not say only beyond its first expression, but in a way that produces a re-action in favour of the other estates of the realm. And the late lengthy debate on the Reform question has, on the whole, strengthened this feeling; so that at this moment we firmly believe that nothing but the comparatively flourishing social state of the country saves us from a perilous political movement. There is a cynical notion abroad that our public men—the most



THE RIGHT HON. BENJAMIN DISRAELI, CHANCELLOR OF HER MAJESTY'S EXCHEQUER —(COPIED BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. COLNAGHI AND CO., FROM THE ENGRAVING AFTER GRANT'S PICTURE.)



conspicuous of whom have the Commons for their seat of action—are deficient in the earnestness, heartiness, and general greatness required for their tasks, and that they trifle with the big questions of the day for the merest purposes of personal and factious ambition.

It is worth while, in the course of a few observations on such a state of things, to begin by remarking, that the much-talked-of decay of party has by no means saved us from the evils of party. In fact, we seem to be left with the evils, after losing the good points of the system. Instead of a few great movements of faction now and then—leaving long periods of strong working government between—we have little spurts and jets of faction always going on. The Whigs do not occasionally practise some grand strategical move against the Tories now-a-days, but every Whig is always at it. We have Palmerston against Russell, or *vice versa*, as often as we have either or both of them against Derby or Disraeli. "Crisis" is becoming our normal state of affairs, and legislation, consequently, must soon stand still. This is bearable for a time, because the prosperity of the country does not habitually depend on what our governors may happen to be about. But it is obvious that it cannot stand rough weather, and that the nation cannot afford the loss of year after year.

The great reform debate has put the evils of the system, or rather of want of system, in the strongest light. The very "ability" of the affair (though the speakers flattered each other with an unctious that looked as if they were all at once afraid of each other and distrustful of themselves) was not remarkable; and if one compared it with that of 1831-32, was even commonplace. But, waiving that, what a want of reality and distinctness was there in the laying down of views! The bigotry of Croker or Wetherall would have been refreshing after so much wishy-washy indefiniteness of opinion as was poured out night after night, prefaced always by forcible-feeble boastings of impartiality. Government had a bill, and, so far, were compelled to defend certain proposals; but half the speeches made—taking them in the lump, were mere peddling critical essays on points of detail. Many men talked Radicalism in one sentence and Conservatism in the next, steering between their fears of a row out of the House and their wish to keep things going as quietly as possible without a dissolution. Sometimes we had a hackneyed bit of De Tocqueville, or a bold hint that incessant agitation of abstract politics must lead to revolution. But, generally, milk-and-water was the order of the day. The House, in short, did not care vitally for reform at all; but nobody would commit himself to saying that, any more than to fairly broaching extreme views. Nothing was *real* but the egotism which prompted every man to try and save himself; as it had led Lord John to cause the whole protracted palaver by resolving to have the entire reform question to himself.

The worst feature about this exhibition on the part of our public men is the want of earnestness which it discloses. We live in a period full of all sorts of social and moral cant, the good-natured kind of which is often as mischievous as the bad-natured sort; and the timidity shown with it all does more harm to public men in the country than any other thing about it. Take the case of the "working classes," about whom so much was said in the discussion. We firmly believe that they would rather be talked to frankly by a politician not willing to put all power in their hands, than canted over and patronised in the kind of way that is in fashion now. We believe they would prefer to be told—"You are not all of you fit to have that supremacy in the State which your numbers under a system of universal suffrage and electoral districts would give you; and which would swamp the best among your own class precisely and as thoroughly as it would anybody else,"—than to be flattered without the promise of power as now, or to be made the pretexts for proposals tending only in practice to modified and varied kinds of oligarchy. But then this would be too frank for a "public man" now, who with all his toadyism of the artisan, etc., has a secret terror that this same artisan would hoot him for an argument! But what sort of respect for his friend's candour and liberality does this same terror imply?

If foolish fear is at the bottom of one kind of political cant, so there is a foolish confidence which is at the bottom of another. There are some grandees who think they can safely talk any amount of democracy—and so become, as they hope, popular—without any practical result coming of it. They fancy that the British "love of a lord" is so strong, that practically their ascendancy is safe, come what changes may; and are fond of quoting Crockford's dictum that give him a "Radical lord," and he would accept suffrage in any shape and ballot to boot. Unfortunately, this is only so far true, that the Radical lord's popularity would depend on his doing what he was bid—which would soon (when "familiarity" with such an unprincipled noble as Crockford postulated, had bred the proper "contempt") lead to strange results for his order. All this kind of thing springs from ignorance of the classes about whom it is talked. There are among the working classes varieties of sentiment just as elsewhere. Some are Democrats, and some are Conservatives, and some care nothing on the subject, just as everywhere else, and it is not the *opinions*, but the inevitable *condition* of many of them which would make their unalloyed ascendancy dangerous. Instead of canting for, or canting against their power, let our public men deal with the question on the same practical and moderate principles which he would apply to any other bit of business. Let him open the suffrage to all the best-informed and best-situated amongst them, and the regular course of social improvement and education will soon quiet all extreme demands;—assuming that those who have the power go vigorously about their political duties. But then, this last is just what our "public men" at present seem particularly inclined to neglect, and to sacrifice to faction, egotism, laziness, and *nil admirari*, under the influence of a spirit of cant and a want of manly geniality too visible in this age. Probably the evil will cure itself by provoking by and by a state of things which will compel men to assume all the responsibility of a "public" character as cheerfully as everybody must that of a private one.

THE "COTTON INTEREST" is elated with the hope that the Government will accept the sovereignty of the Feejee Islands, which has been offered us by their chief. The cotton growing wild there is said to be as well adapted for manufacturing purposes as any known. The area suited to its growth is very large; and the inhabitants are ready labourers.

THE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES.—The Queen has directed that letters patent be passed under the great seal, declaring that the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, Bachelor of Medicine, Doctor of Medicine, Bachelor of Laws, Doctor of Laws, Bachelor of Music, and Doctor of Music, granted or conferred by the University of Melbourne, in the colony of Victoria, shall be recognised as academy distinctions, and be entitled to precedence and consideration in the United Kingdom and the possessions of the crown throughout the world, as fully as if the degrees had been granted by any university of the United Kingdom.

MR. DISRAELI.

MR. DISRAELI, just now, is like a stag at bay. All the parties in the House, excepting the main body of the Conservatives, seem to thirst for his life. And even amongst them, all is not serene and pleasant. Henley and Walpole have openly deserted him; Mr. Sturt, the other night, expressed his astonishment at the course which "his Right Honourable Friend" had taken. That stiff Conservative from Northamptonshire, Mr. Knightley, damned his measure with faint praise; whilst from the opposite benches the whole pack have opened upon him with an unanimity of chorus that is quite remarkable in these days. And there seems to be little room for doubt that the Chancellor will fall. But he will not fall without a struggle, we may rely upon it. Whilst we write, the attacks upon the Government have been nearly exhausted. Palmerston, Russell, Graham, Gibson, and Bright have expended their darts; and we are waiting now for Disraeli's defence and retributive onslaught upon those who have so pertinaciously and cruelly assailed him during the last week. And that he will be equal to the occasion we cannot doubt. It is just the sort of crisis—this—that calls forth his powers. Lately, he has been compelled to be cautious, reticent, and to speak diplomatically with bated breath, if not in bondsman's key; but his case is so desperate now, that he will probably throw off his diplomacy, and appear before his foes as he was wont to do—armed, bold, and defiant. During the last week he has not employed all his time—whilst he sat on the Treasury bench, with his eyes upon the ground—in listening to the speakers. Whilst the chiefs were addressing the House, he was evidently all attention; but in the intervals, he appeared to us to be thinking of something else than what the nobodies were uttering—considering well and reconsidering his ground, marshalling his arguments, and giving to his sarcasm a keener point. Some time about 12:30 he will rise to close the debate; and every noise will be hushed, and every eye and ear strained, when he rises. For a time he will stand at the table calmly, and deliver out his measured sentences slowly and with little action—perhaps he will stumble and hesitate, and strangers in the gallery will be surprised that so famous a speaker should thus boggle at his work. But let them wait awhile, for as he warms to his work all this will pass away—his voice will rise, his head will be up, his deep-set eyes will be fixed upon his opponents, his sentences will come out with a fuller flow, and every now and then some biting sarcasm will be hurled at the "Noble Lord" opposite, which, if said Noble Lord were not so old and hardened, would make him jump from his seat. At first he will pull down his waistcoat at each side; then, as he proceeds, his thumbs will be in the arm-holes; anon, as he warms, he will fold his arms across his breast; and suddenly, when he means to be severe, he will stand erect, fronting the object at which he aims, and, keeping his left arm across his chest, will throw his right forward, and point and shake his finger at his foe. Bitter will be the cries of the Opposition, and loud and hearty will be the cheers behind, whilst this is going on. For two hours or more he will probably speak, and then will come the division—and then, as the showman says, we shall see what we shall see.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

COUNT CAVOUR arrived in Paris on Friday, at the invitation of the Emperor. The Count was present at a private dinner at the Tuileries on Sunday. It was supposed that he would leave Paris on Thursday or Friday. The Marquis d'Azeglio, Sardinian Ambassador at the Court of St. James's, London, met Count Cavour in Paris.

Count Chasseloup-Laubat has been appointed Minister for Algeria and the Colonies.

The Government has decided upon adding a fourth battalion to each of the 100 infantry regiments of the line. The new battalions are to be formed out of the third and sixth companies of the already existing battalions.

The 3rd, 4th, 12th, and 24th Regiments of the Line, intended to form part of the Algerian army, have received orders for their departure.

There was to have been a review of the entire army of Paris on Sunday: it was postponed till to-morrow. All the regiments will be complete, every recruit having been called in. It is said that all officers in Paris on leave of absence have received orders to join their regiments.

SPAIN.

The differences between Spain and Morocco have been adjusted. The Spanish prisoners have been delivered over to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires, and salutes have been exchanged between the Spanish war steamer at Taniers and the Moorish batteries. The Melilla boundary question is also stated to be in a fair way of being adjusted. The son of the Emperor of Morocco escorted the Spaniards to the environs of Tangiers.

SWITZERLAND.

ALL the companies of Tyrolean volunteer carabiniers are to be organised. The Government of Vaud remonstrates against the duty on the exports of horses, which it represents as being unfavourable to agricultural interests.

AUSTRIA.

An envoy is to be shortly sent by the Austrian Government to London, we hear; and again, that Field-Marshal the Prince de Windischgrätz is to be selected to carry an autograph letter from the Emperor Francis Joseph to Queen Victoria. There was a report that the Emperor of Austria was to make a journey through his dominions in Italy; but this appears improbable now.

Austria has addressed a note to Piedmont, demanding the extradition of the volunteers who have been received there contrary to treaties.

RUSSIA.

A ST. PETERSBURG letter states that the budget of 1859 had been presented to the Emperor by the Minister of Finance, and approved of by his Majesty without modification. The receipts, it is stated, exceed the expenses by 20½ millions of roubles. But a new three per cent. loan of £12,000,000 sterling has been concluded with the house of Thomson, Bonar, and Co., at the price of 76.

ITALY.

ACCORDING to the "Daily News," a journal generally well informed on Italian politics, Italy is still in an alarmingly unquiet state. "The announcement of a Congress, which is there regarded as a combination against the hopes and desires of the Italian people, has stimulated a movement which all the prudence of Count Cavour may not be able long to restrain, and which, should that patriotic statesman be weakened or overthrown, would pass into the hands of the republican and revolutionary party."

A political handbill has been extensively circulated at Leghorn, in which it is stated that Piedmont desires the liberty of Italy, but that she wishes her friends to abstain from disturbances which would only weaken her cause.—Volunteers continue to be enrolled in Piedmont in great numbers. Scores of noblemen and gentlemen have enlisted under Victor Emmanuel's flag as private soldiers.—On the 23rd ult. a funeral mass was celebrated in the cathedral of Turin, for the Italians who fell at the battle of Novara. Crowds collected from all neighbouring parts; the throng became so great that the space within the sacred edifice could not contain them; and the open space in front of the church was completely filled. All the ministers attended except the Minister of War. The concourse of ladies attired in deep mourning was very great; these having assembled an hour before in the square of San Carlo, followed in procession the National Guard, and they in turn were followed by the students of the University, who carried their banner. General Garibaldi has taken the oath of fidelity to King Victor Emmanuel. He commands a division that will be used (if need be) in guerilla warfare.

Letters from Piacenza announce that on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th inst., 1,200 Austrians, with 50 cannons, 150 barrels of resin, and a

great quantity of Congreve rockets, arrived there. The church has been converted into a flour magazine.

It appears that the story of the Pope having recently preferred a second and peremptory demand for the immediate evacuation of the Roman States by the French and Austrian troops, was founded only upon a formal repetition in writing of the original request, made verbally on the 21st of February. Another story is that the evacuation has been by common accord postponed to the 31st of December next.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

A DESPATCH has been addressed by the Turkish Government to its agents abroad relative to the election of Colonel Couza. The circular states that the double election of Colonel Couza constitutes an infraction so self-evident of the spirit and letter of the convention of the 19th of August, and affects so seriously the suzerain rights of the Ottoman Empire, that it is useless longer to discuss facts so patent. The Government of the Sultan rests its appeal to the great Powers principally on the motives which gave rise to that election. The Government has despatched twelve battalions of infantry, one regiment of cavalry, and eighty guns, to Shumla. A second corps d'armée will be shortly sent to Sophia.

Old Prince Milosch, of Serbia, is on his deathbed, according to reports from Vienna. His son Michael has already given orders to sell his property in Austria, which indicates that he is prepared to ascend the throne by right of inheritance, in spite of the remonstrances of the Porte.

AMERICA.

THE Cabinet has unanimously decided that an extra session of Congress is necessary to consider financial affairs, but no date has been fixed for its assembling. The deficit in the Post-office department for the 30th of June next will be four-and-a-half million dollars.

The grand jury at Washington have found true bills against David E. Sickles for murder.

There has been an enthusiastic mass meeting at Tammany Hall, New York, in favour of the acquisition of Cuba.

At Washington it is believed that neither the French nor British Government meditates any interference in the political concerns of Mexico.

Advices from Vera Cruz state that a battle had been fought near Cordova, and the left wing of Miramon's army was completely routed by the liberals. Miramon lost 100 men killed, three cannon, 300 muskets, and a large quantity of ammunition. General Degollado was preparing to march on the capital with 10,000 men. The liberals had captured Guanajuato and Aguas Calientes.

IONIA.

THE new Lord High Commissioner has set up a commission, composed of the President of the Legislative Assembly, the Secretary of the Lord High Commissioner, the Secretary of the Senate (General Department), the Regent of Corfu, the Auditor-General, and members of the Legislative Assembly, to inquire into all the public departments, for the purpose of recommending such changes as can be "legally" carried into effect by the Government. The Lord High Commissioner is president of this commission. It assembles three times a week. The first branch of administration taken in hand is the police.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

CAPE mails have arrived with dates to the 21st ult. Trade was prosperous, and land was advancing in value. The Trans-Vaal Boers, it was said, had abandoned their intention to go to war with the neighbouring tribes, so that the London Mission station at Kuruman might continue for some time longer to enjoy comparative security. Rumours are still current of a union between the Trans-Vaal Republic and the Orange Free State. In that case the treaty between this country and the Orange Free State would become cancelled.

CHINA.

LORD ELGIN arrived at Hong Kong from Shanghai on the 2nd of February, but departed next day for Canton. His Excellency was to start from that place to make an exploration, similar to that he has made of the Yang-tze, of the Great West River, which, according to the Chinese, can be ascended for a long distance in vessels of light draft. A number of troops will go on this expedition, and provisions will be taken for three weeks. Six or seven gun-boats are to go up towing flat-bottomed junks, but it is doubtful whether any attempt will be made to advance beyond the point where gun-boats can reach.

Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour was soon to leave Hong Kong. Sir Byam Martin was to be his successor.

THE CONGRESS.

ON the subject of the proposed Congress to consider the Italian question, rumour has been engaged in contradicting herself daily for more than a week past. It does seem certain that the Congress will be held at Baden-Baden, early in the month of April; and that there is a strong disposition to come to a pacific settlement. There has been much debate as to whether Piedmont should be admitted to the conference; a point which France would, of course, favour, and which the other Emperor, Prince Napoleon, is said to have demanded. In the event of Piedmont being included, as she will be, it seems, admission could not be refused to Tuscany, the Papal Government, and the Duchy of Parma: Naples and Modena being naturally excluded—Naples on account of its interruption of international relations, and Modena because it has never recognised the Imperial Government.

Austria made certain conditions before she consented to the Congress; as for instance, she will not take part in any discussion which could possibly lead to a modification of the treaties of 1815, and consequently there can be no question of her relinquishing any part of the territory which she now possesses in Italy, or her rights of reversion in Tuscany and Modena. Another condition was, that Sardinia should quit the menacing attitude it has lately taken up; but it will be seen by a despatch of Count Cavour, which we print in another place, that Sardinia is not at all inclined to do so at present, though she promises not to attack Austria.

Whether the Congress is to be composed of two representatives from each Power, or one, is questioned. We in England would certainly prefer two. Lord Malmesbury must attend; Lord Cowley's presence would give us some confidence.

According to late intelligence, the Austrian Government has refused Baden-Baden as the seat of the proposed Congress. The French Government leaves the choice of the town to Austria, reserving only the condition that it must be in communication with Paris by railway and telegraph.

EXPLOSION AT THE HOUNSLOW POWDER-MILLS.

A TERRIBLE explosion took place at the Hounslow Powder-mills on Wednesday, and the lives of seven persons were sacrificed. The explosion took place in one of the express-houses, and was almost immediately followed by another of a more fearful character in the adjacent corn-house. These buildings were blown to atoms; and seven men were killed. Some idea of the nature of the explosion may be gathered from the fact, that the report was heard at a distance of several miles, and that many of the windows of the houses in the town of Hounslow were shattered.

THE NEAPOLITAN REFUGEES.—All the Neapolitan refugees, including Count Peorio, are now in London. They have addressed a letter to the mayor and citizens of Cork, thanking them for their generous solicitude. "Ladies of Cork, beautiful and good," concludes the letter, "in your prayers forget not the wives, the sisters, the children of the exiles who weep over their loved ones." Some of the exiles demur to the course taken by the leaders of their body, in deprecating all public manifestations of sympathy, in the way of meetings, banquets, &c. The malcontents say that if the British public desires the opportunity of displaying its love of freedom, and its sympathy with the victims of tyranny, they ought not to be balked of it.

SARDINIA AND AUSTRIA.

An important despatch from Count Cavour has been published. It is a reply to a request from Lord Malmesbury for an assurance that Piedmont will not attack Austria. It also makes a general reply to Count Buol's despatch of January 25.

Count Cavour says (the translation is not very clear in the second paragraph):—

"In consequence of aggressive acts (what other name can we give them?) committed by Austria—by the concentration of imposing forces on the Sardinian frontier; by placing on a war footing the army of Italy; by the construction and occupation of new fortifications on ground which does not belong to her; by the occupation of the Legations; and by the violation of treaties—the government of the King, according to the law of nations, has a right to prepare to defend itself against Austria even by means of arms. England implicitly acknowledged such a right when, a short time since, through the medium of her Minister of Foreign Affairs—by the weight of her great authority, by the solemn means of diplomatic action—she condemned the unjust measures employed by Austria sequestrating the estates of Sardinian subjects; and that if, under such circumstances, the dangers of war were prevented, it resulted from the great moderation of the Sardinian government. (This was a despatch of Lord Clarendon's to the Marquis d'Azeglio.)

"Accordingly, as her Britannic Majesty's Government has acknowledged the abnormal state of Italy, and promised to Sardinia that England would endeavour to find a remedy for the evils complained of, the Sardinian Government, availing itself of such promises, and reserving its liberty of action in case Austria should abstain from the future from committing aggressive acts, Sardinia is ready to give her assurance that it is not her intention to attack Austria. And she agrees on this subject to make a declaration the same as that contained in the despatch of Count Buol, which, in reality, is nothing but a long and bitter accusation against Sardinia and the policy of the Cabinet over which I have the honour to preside.

"I need not on the present occasion refute one by one the arguments which Count Buol employs in his despatch, wherein he represents Sardinia as the real cause of the abnormal condition of Italy. The military preparations continually taken by Austria, and pointed out in my despatch, have all preceded the justifiable action of the Sardinian Government. The Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Sardinian Parliament, was only pronounced on the 10th of January, and yet on the 3rd of the same month a new corps d'armée was suddenly sent to Austrian Italy. Our loan did not take place until after Austria had endeavoured to negotiate a much larger loan in London. Finally, if we have called out our contingent, leaving our reserves at their homes, it was not until Austria had ordered her Italian army to be placed on a complete war footing, and we were convinced that we should find ourselves alone in the face of one of the largest armies that ever crowded the soil of Italy.

"Count Buol, after having rapidly examined, from this point of view, the events which have succeeded each other since 1848, finishes by declaring that if Italy is profoundly agitated, if the people are discontented, if the governments have done nothing to satisfy the legitimate desires of their subjects, this all originates in the views and spirit of turbulence which liberty has developed in Piedmont; in fact, availing myself of Count Buol's words, 'Through the introduction in that country (Piedmont) of institutions which work well when they have been developed and matured by ages, but which do not seem to be in accordance with the genius, traditions, and social condition of Italy.'

"The contrast presented by Piedmont with the provinces under the dominion of Austria is too striking not to produce a profound irritation in Austria. The example of Piedmont proving, contrary to the assertion of Count Buol, that the Italians are susceptible of a liberal and progressive régime, makes the military system of Austria more hateful to the people of the Italian Peninsula. The corporal punishments, the ever-augmenting taxation, the fatal financial measures, and the abandonment by the clergy of the rights of the state, make the contrast more obvious.

"We acknowledge that the liberty of Piedmont is a danger and menace for Austria. According to Austria, there are only two things to do—destroy the liberal institutions of Italy, or keep up her dominion over all Italy to prevent contagion from spreading over the other States of the peninsula which have not enough strength at their disposal for suppressing the voice of the people. It is the second alternative which Austria has embraced, waiting the later arrival and indirect action, the realisation of the first indicated means.

"Austria, up to the present moment, has succeeded by secret treaties with Parma, Modena, and Tuscany, and by the indefinite occupation of the Romagna (which is now about to cease, according to the declarations of Vienna and Rome), and by the considerable fortifications she had so constructed, in making herself mistress of Central Italy, and thus binding Piedmont with a circle of iron. It is against such a state of things, which is not justified by the treaties of Vienna, that Sardinia has not ceased to protest for many years, calling for the intervention and support of the great Powers who signed the treaties of 1815.

"Such a state of things has for a long time constituted a threatening danger to Piedmont, aggravated of late by extraordinary armaments and other aggressive acts on the part of Austria, which have forced the government of the King to adopt defensive measures and call the contingents under arms.

"It is proposed that this state of things should cease, that Austrian dominion in Italy should enter within the limits formally stipulated by treaties; that Austria should disarm, and that Sardinia, whilst deploring the unhappy fate of the population on the other side of the Ticino, should confine her efforts, as England has often recommended her to do, towards a pacific propaganda calculated more and more to enlighten public opinion in Europe on the Italian question and to prepare the elements for a future solution. But, so long as our neighbours group round them and against us all the States of Italy which border on us, and whilst they can freely march their troops on the banks of the Po and up to the Apennines; so long as they can hold Piacenza (transformed into a fortress of the first order), continually threatening our frontier, it will be impossible for us to remain defenceless in the face of the provoking and armed attitude of Austria.

"The government of her Britannic Majesty is too enlightened and too loyal not to admit that we cannot pursue any other line of conduct without betraying our rights, without offending our honour, whatever may be our desires to dissipate the clouds which threaten the peace of the world."

INDIA.

CALCUTTA news to the 22nd of February says: "Tranquillity continues to prevail throughout Oude, and the disarming of the provinces progresses rapidly. Up to the 12th inst., 378 cannons and 975,000 arms of all kinds have been collected, while 756 forts have been entirely levelled. The Begum and the Nena are still in the Nepaul Terai. On the 9th inst. Brigadier Horsford took fourteen guns from the rebels on the Nepaul frontier; he was but slightly opposed and suffered no loss. Mr. C. J. Wingfield assumed charge of the office of Chief Commissioner from Mr. Montgomery on the 15th inst.

"The rebels in Central India, under Tantia Toppe, are now reported to be making for Pertabgarh. They were at Atoolah on the 17th, and burnt Gassoonda, south-west of Jeerun, on the 19th inst. A telegram from Indore, dated the 18th inst., brings information that four generals, several other officers, and 600 men of the rebel force, have given themselves up to the Rajah of Bikaner.

"The troops of the Punnah Rajah in Bundelcund attacked and defeated a body of rebels at Alove on the 10th inst.

"All is quiet in the North-western provinces and in Bengal."

The trial of the Nawab of Furruckabad was to commence on the 14th of March.

The financial condition of India is viewed with great alarm at Calcutta. The report that the Governor-General of India had applied to England for remittances of bullion, did great mischief; for to the natives, with their fantastic ideas of the wealth of India (and nearly all the Indian capitalists are natives), this measure was equal to a declaration of bankruptcy.

The Governor-General at length issued a notification on the subject, in which he acknowledges that the mutiny expenditure in India alone, apart from home payments, has been £8,000,000 in excess of the revenue. He wants £8,000,000 more for the coming year; £8,000,000 more have been already raised, and spent in England, so that £24,000,000 is added to the debt. Moreover, there exists avowedly no possibility of remittances to England for the next two years, and, as the "home" expenditure is now £5,000,000 a year, £10,000,000 more must be raised to meet them, making an addition by 1861 of £34,000,000 to the Territorial Debt, or within a little of two years' net revenue. This sum has been raised partly at six and partly at four per cent., and taking five as the average, the mutinies have added £1,700,000 to the annual interest of the debt. But this is not the worst. An annual deficit of six or seven millions is anticipated for several years to come, unless there are great reductions in expenditure.

At Cawnpore, on the 10th of February, the sepoys of Lucknow who remained faithful during the siege of that city were assembled in the presence of the whole garrison, and received the Order of Merit for their services. Major-General Sir John Inglis, in presenting each man with his well-earned decoration, which entitles them all to an increase of pay, delivered a congratulatory address.

MONEY-MATTERS IN INDIA.

COPIES of despatches from the Governor-General to the Secretary of State for India, relative to Indian finances, and of despatches in reply, have been published. In a despatch of the 16th of the present month, Lord Stanley tells the Governor-General that he cannot refrain from observing that "your requisition for an immediate supply of bullion from this country without a previous indication of your contemplating such a step, appears to furnish evidence of some want of foresight on the part of those officers of your Government to whom your financial arrangements are entrusted." His Lordship dismisses the proposal of the remittance of bullion "at once, as one that cannot be entertained," and adds that her Majesty's Government, after the fullest consideration, are inclined to recommend that if further measures should prove to be absolutely necessary, the preferable course to follow might be to open a six per cent. loan, payable at the option of Government in five or six years for a fixed and specified amount, and to state distinctly that the loan will be closed immediately that amount is subscribed. There is an important addendum, however, to this despatch, which disposes of one of the previous statements. This addendum, or postscript, is as follows:—

"Since this despatch was written, I have received your letter, dated 5th of February, earnestly soliciting that further remittances of bullion, to the amount of two crores, in addition to the requisition already complied with, may be forwarded without delay, one crore to arrive in the course of April or May, and the other as soon afterwards as it can be despatched. Her Majesty's Government have learned with deep regret the state of your financial prospects, which have forced you to make this further requisition, which it is most inconvenient to meet, provision not having been made for such large demands in the loan about to be contracted here under the authority of Parliament; yet, under all these circumstances, they do not feel that they can decline to comply with it, at least to the extent of remitting a second million of bullion. Measures will accordingly be taken for sending another million, to arrive, if possible, in the course of the month of May, and in the proportion of one-third to Bombay and two-thirds to Calcutta. If indispensable, and in the event of my not meanwhile receiving more favourable accounts, a further supply of bullion will be remitted to you within the limit of a third crore. Her Majesty's Government are glad to see, from your present letter, that you are considering the practicability of introducing new measures of taxation, which are so urgently needed to meet the increased payments which will have to be made, even after the necessity for carrying on extraordinary military operations shall have ceased."

"I have, &c. "STANLEY."

Lord Stanley wishes also to strongly impress upon the Governor-General the fact, that "any efforts that can be made in this country with a view to obviate financial embarrassments in India, must inevitably be of little avail, unless the necessity for increasing your income and for effecting a large reduction of expenditure be kept steadily in view, and measures founded thereon be promptly carried into effect."

IRELAND.

DESERTED CHILDREN IN IRELAND.—A copy of all opinions given by her Majesty's law advisers on the subject of the religious registration of deserted children in Ireland has been printed. The Attorney and Solicitor General differ upon the question whether a certificate of baptism renders it the duty of guardians to register children as of that religious denomination, in the absence of other evidence. Both agree, however, that where the child has been instructed in the tenets and practices of any peculiar religious sect, the guardians ought not to allow the child's belief to be disturbed, it being the manifest intention of the Legislature to discourage anything like proselytism.

SCOTLAND.

AN AWKWARD MISTAKE.—John Russell, a lunatic, was arrested in the streets of Glasgow and placed in a lock-up, awaiting an order for removal to an asylum. On the same day, John Russell, a carrier, was placed in another jail, charged with running over a child. By mistake the police went and took the wrong man to the asylum, notwithstanding his remonstrances, and it was not until he had gone through the preliminary process usual on admittance to such a place, that his brother arrived and obtained his release.

MILITIA RIOT AT AYR.—A formidable riot occurred at Ayr, last week, between some of the Nottinghamshire Militia and the townsfolk. Before order could be restored, the picket which was called out to effect that result had to charge the mob with the bayonet.

THE PROVINCES.

EXTRAORDINARY SUICIDE.—A young woman, named Harriet Hostler, committed suicide under very melancholy circumstances last week. It appeared from the evidence adduced before the coroner, that a tender correspondence had passed between the deceased and Nicholas Kaven, her uncle! A bundle of letters was handed to this person, who said he had got them written for him, and did not know what was in them. The coroner read several passages as follows:—"You are first in my thoughts in the morning and the last at night. My dearest girl, you must not keep me long waiting; I think you are very long. You shall not be long before you hear from me again, and if you will favour me with one of your kind letters you will oblige your affectionate lover," &c. &c. "I hope you will meet me at the station at six o'clock on Monday night. I shall be sure to come then. The greatest pleasure I have now is to hope to see your sweet face, my dearest. So no more at present from your affectionate lover, Nicholas Kaven." Kaven repeated that he did not write the letters himself, and that he had not promised marriage to the girl; although he admitted that he had told her she could come and stop with him a week or two if she thought proper. The medical evidence showed that the death of the deceased had resulted from an overdose of laudanum. The jury returned the following verdict:—"That the deceased's death was caused by an overdose of laudanum, which was taken in an unsound state of mind, produced by the villainous conduct of the uncle, Nicholas Kaven."

RATHER ASTONISHING.—In a case tried at Liverpool, one brother sued another for £210, with interest, upon a promissory note. Mr. Justice Byles threw consternation into the plaintiff's party by holding up the document to the light, when it appeared, from the water-mark on the paper, that it was manufactured in 185—, whereas the date of the note was 1838. This timely discovery not only put an end to an animated discussion which was going on between the "learned gentlemen" on either side, but also settled the plaintiff's claim.

THE MURDER AT RYE.—Since the prisoner, John White, who was tried at Lewes for the murder of his wife by drowning her in a ditch, and convicted of manslaughter, has been sent back to prison, he has made a full statement of all the circumstances connected with the act. He states that when he left his home on the morning of the murder he had not the slightest intention of committing any act of violence towards his wife, but, being fearful that if she went to the foreman of the works and made a complaint against him he might lose his employment, he followed her with the intention of inducing her to return home, and not to take a step which might be attended with such serious results to him and his family. He came up with her close to the ditch where the body was found, and entreated her to go home, but that she persisted in her determination to proceed to the works, and at length she became very violent and abused him and struck him. Roused by this, he says, he returned the blow, and then followed a violent struggle, in the course of which they both fell into the ditch, which had not more than eight to ten inches of water, the bottom being composed of more than three feet of soft sticky mud. He had great difficulty in getting out himself, and he states that when he had done so, the deceased appeared to be quite dead. He was immediately seized with agony at what had occurred, and started off towards Camber Castle. On the way he hardly knew what he was about, and fell into another ditch, and was nearly drowned. The prisoner was quite astounded at the result of the trial, as he had anticipated his conviction for wilful murder was almost certain.

OVERTAKEN BY THE TIDE.—A French lugger and a Dutch brig were lately stranded on the Ceefen Sidan Sands. This event proved of considerable interest to the inhabitants of the surrounding district, and between the tides, when the sands have become sufficiently dry to admit of their being walked over, the wrecks have been visited by a large number of persons. Among others were two brothers, named Evan and David Davies, and a companion named Henry Morgan. Unhappily they remained too late on the sands, and the water rising, they soon found themselves surrounded on all sides and without hope of escape. They were seen from the shore by parties who had no means of rendering them any assistance, running frantically backward and forward, raising their hands, and shouting and screaming for help, until the waters overwhelmed them.

MURDER AND SUICIDE THROUGH JEALOUSY.—A miner of West Bromwich, named Corbett, resolved to separate from his wife a few days ago; they were mutually jealous. On Friday Corbett was taunted and sneered at on this subject, in the presence of his fellow-miners, by some person connected with the pit in which he worked; and in language which too clearly corroborated his jealous apprehensions. About eight o'clock the same evening, Corbett sought an interview with his wife, who, with her two children, had taken lodgings. They met in a by-road. He went up to her, and cut her throat in three places. She died almost immediately. Corbett walked away from the spot, followed by one or two persons, who were afraid to touch him, as he brandished a large clasp-knife. He had not gone far before a couple of policemen came up, and Corbett said, "You needn't send for them; I'm going." So saying, he applied the knife to his own throat and inflicted such a fearful wound that it is thought impossible he can survive. He is twenty-seven years of age; his wife three years younger.

THE SHERIFF OF PERTSHIRE has issued a proclamation against the practice of farmers saturating their seed grain with poisonous ingredients, for the purpose of destroying wood pigeons, &c.

A COTTON FACTORY situated near the Bury Lane station of the London and North-Western Railway took fire on Friday last. Property to the value of nearly £100,000 was consumed.

MONTENEGRO AND ITS PEOPLE.

LAST week the Earl of Clarendon drew attention to the intrigues at present going on in Montenegro, and deprecated the system of exciting insurrection in the Turkish provinces, which must eventually lead to the dismemberment of the empire. It appears that the vexed question of the boundary has been at length amicably arranged, and that engineers are about to be appointed to stake it out. This has somewhat revived the interest in Montenegrin affairs, and we take the opportunity to give some sketches illustrative of the manners and customs of the Montenegrins.

Pride and self-esteem are the prominent characteristics of the natives of Montenegro; even the poorest among them have their share of these qualities. A Montenegrin whose whole worldly wealth is comprised in his strukla and musket, will strut about with an air of importance which might lead a stranger to suppose that all the flocks and herds of the Black Mountain were his own. To carry a load, or even the smallest package, for a stranger, would be considered a degradation.

The laws of the country tend in no small degree to foster these feelings. The poorest Montenegrin is justified in the eye of the law, if, in the first out-burst of resentment, he should kill the man (of whatever rank) who may strike him with a stick. A blow with a stick is held to be so humiliating, that banishment, or even death, would not be more cared for.

Personal courage is a virtue also fostered and encouraged by the laws. A Montenegrin soldier may claim a reward for shooting his comrade, should the latter fall back or evince any sign of cowardice in battle. On the other hand, the highest posts are open to those who give proofs of courage. In each company, the bravest soldier is singled out to fill some high appointment. At a ceremony of this kind, a curious scene recently occurred. A company had assembled in the presence of the Prince, to choose from among its bravest corporals, one whose superior courage might qualify him to fill a vacant perayanik. Two of the competitors appeared to present equal claims to distinction; that is to say, both had possibly carried from the field of action an equal number of Turks' heads. It was a perplexing question to decide, and the judgment of the Prince was appealed to. His Highness, unable to arrive at any decision, cast his eye on an aged man, and said: "Now, Nitjo, what do you think?" The old man smiled, and replied, "You are a prince, and yet you ask my opinion. Truly, if I were a prince, you are the last person whom I should consult." The compliment was received with a burst of laughter, in which the Prince himself joined.

The very lowest class of people, who have never attended a school, or received the least education, are eligible to the highest military commands, and are afterwards chosen to discharge the functions of Waiwodes and Senators; the general ignorance of these dignitaries is therefore easily accounted for.

The Montenegrins despise all distinction of classes, and laugh at the importance attached to education in civilised states. "We should not long be masters of our own," they say, "were we to trouble ourselves about education." The Montenegrins are a warlike people, and hold none but great warriors and heroes in estimation. "We could never permit a man who has not distinguished himself in battle, to take part in the affairs of government, or to discharge judicial functions. Were we to turn our attention to trade, and such like matters, we should soon forget how to bear arms, and to defend our country. We have always lived without learning, and we wish for no change. No! we prefer our swords to all the learning and politics in the world!"

With such sentiments as these, it is not surprising that the Montenegrins should be, in point of cultivation, inferior to any of the Slavonic, and more especially to any of the Serbian races.

One of our illustrations represents a Montenegrin youth recounting his deeds of courage and heroism. This youth, at the age of thirteen, secretly left his home, and against the wishes of his parents repaired to Gradovo. There he fought with the courage of a veteran soldier, and returned to Cetinje, bearing two Turks' heads, as trophies of his valour. In recompense for his heroism, he was immediately raised to the rank of an officer, with the command of one hundred men. This youth is still living, and his name is honoured throughout the country.

The subject of the other illustration is a Montenegrin council of war. Such meetings are affairs of every-day occurrence, a dispute with a neighbouring tribe being the ordinary subject of debate. When the council is called to deliberate on any matter of more than common importance, the Prince or his brother Mirko presides. Our second illustration represents a council headed by one of these personages.

THE AMOOR RIVER.

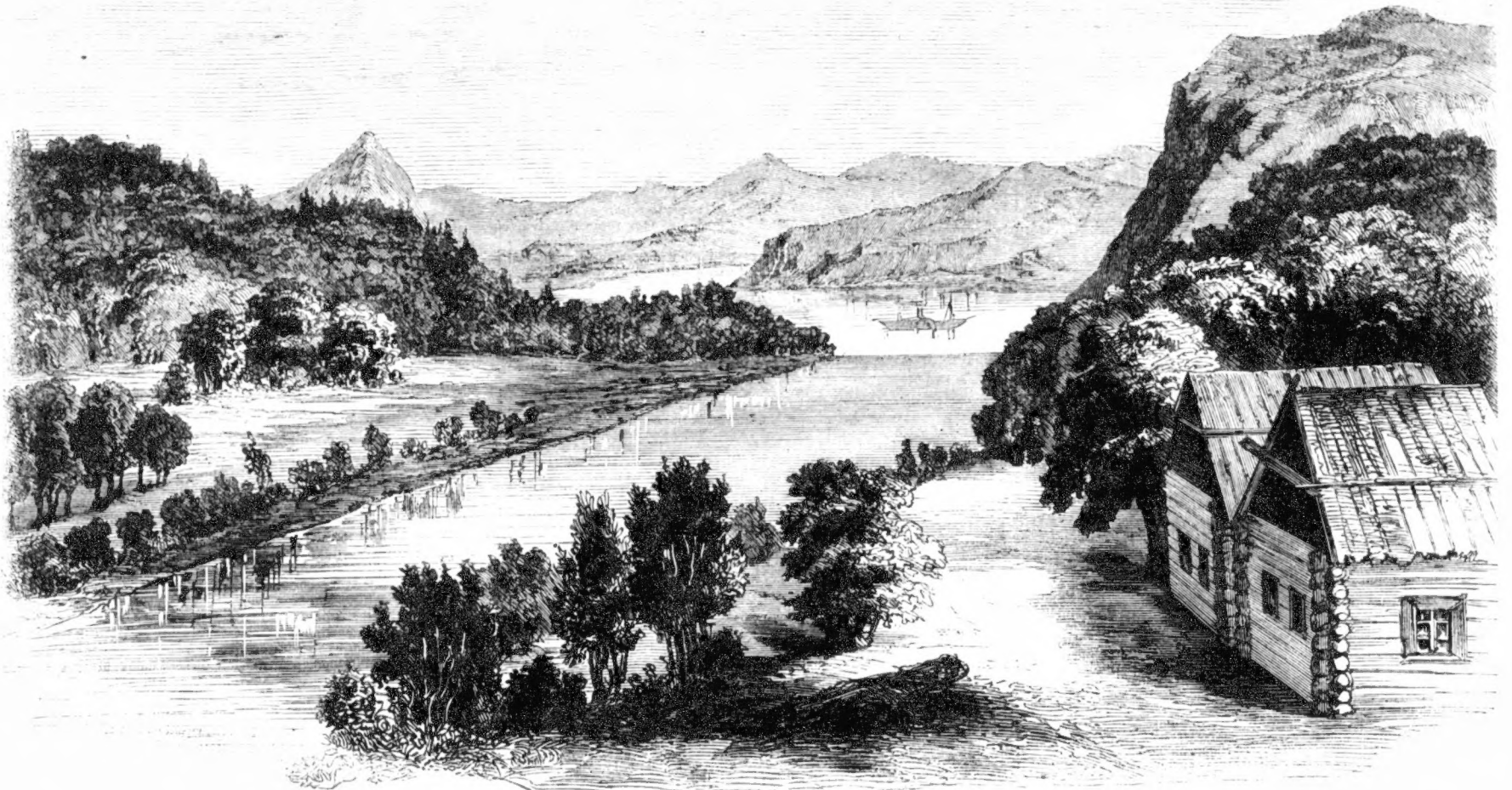
Two years ago, the shores of the Amoor, from the Chinese town Aigut to the mouth of the Tungari (a distance of about 260 miles), was wholly uninhabited. Fifteen Tungusian families were the only occupants of the territory, extending from the beginning of the Ching-gam mountains to the mouth of the Tungari, a distance of about 130 miles. The migration and settlement of the Trans-Baikal Cossack families in the Ching-gam mountains was chiefly carried out in the course of last year; and this year, fifteen new frontier guard-houses extend as far as the mouth of the Ussuri. Our illustration presents a view of the country surrounding these military posts.

The river Amoor is destined to be an important agent in the future commercial relations of the East Indies. Heretofore that great channel of traffic was wanting to the Siberian continent. Being dependent on the European mother country for the supply of all its wants, and having no easily-accessible means of communication with the Pacific Ocean, the industrial condition of that vast territory was reduced to the lowest ebb, and whatever might be the development of Siberian trade, its progress was necessarily confined to one direction. But all is now changed. In spite of the very considerable obstacles to steam navigation presented by the shallow water of the Amoor, with its numerous little islets, yet steamers have repeatedly gone up the river to the distance of 3,000 versts from its mouth, transporting American produce to Transbaikalia.

The winter solitude has been this spring succeeded by so much life and activity on the Amoor river, that it seems fabulous to say that formerly the sight of a human face in these wild regions was a phenomenon.

Now, one smart sailing vessel rapidly succeeds another, conveying settlers and their families along the shores of the Pacific; whilst heavily-laden transports bring supplies of provisions and all sorts of necessities. The Manchus enter into business transactions with the European, the wild Gilake is made subject to laws, and the hitherto oppressed Godi and Amoor Tungus rejoice in the security they enjoy under the protection of the settlers.

In the fern thickets, which border the gurgling cascade-brooks, and which were once haunted by myriads of locusts, in the wild tracts of



FIRST RUSSIAN SETTLEMENT IN THE CHING-GAM MOUNTAINS ON THE RIVER AMOOR.

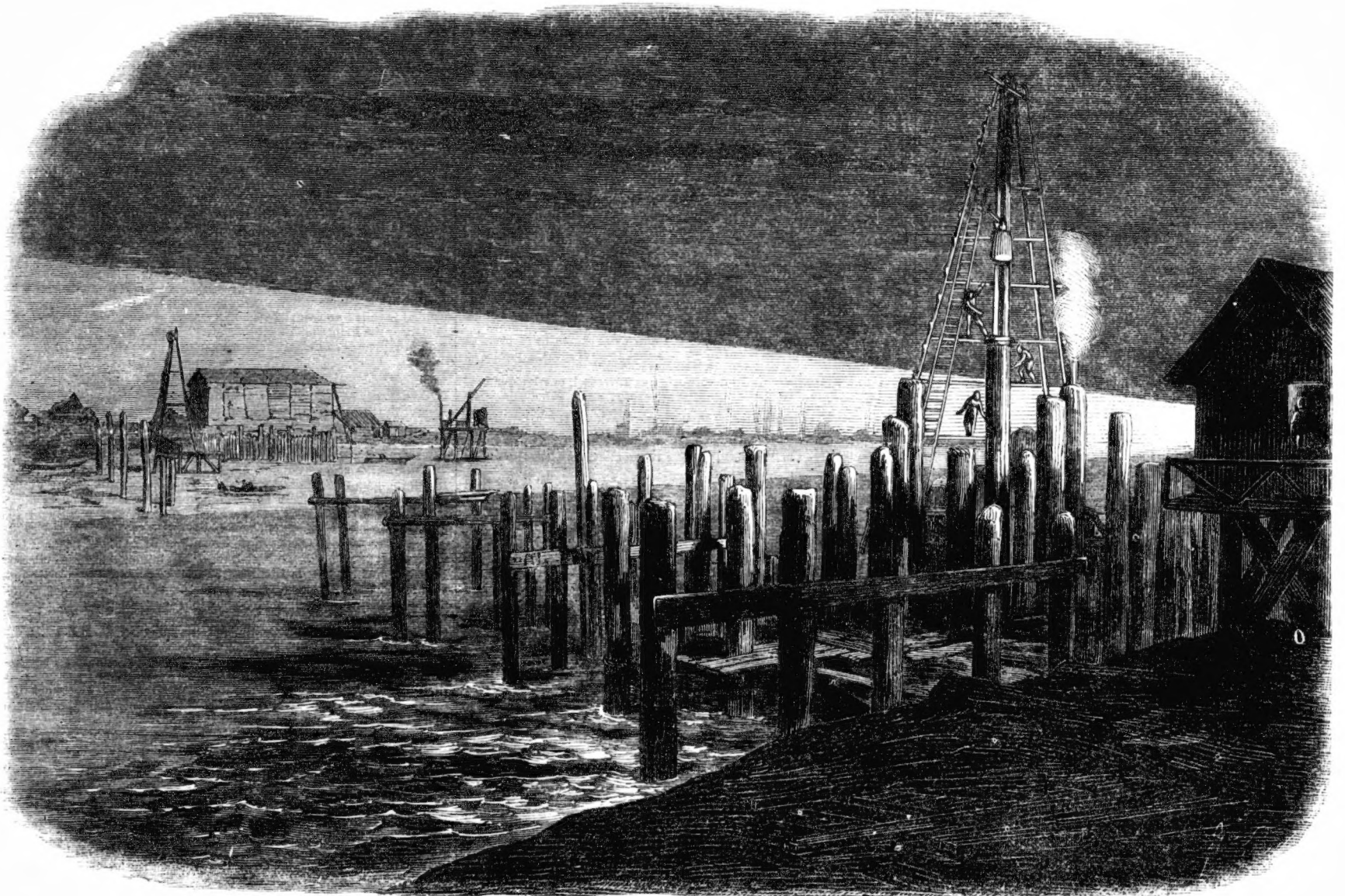
land, overgrown with coppice and Franking creepers, amidst which the day-shunning sylvia so lately built her nest, and poured forth her melancholy evening song. Silence and solitude are now broken by the sound of the axe and the saw, by the movement of the plough and the harrow. The tiger and the panther have withdrawn into the jungly forests which stretch northward into the Yakutskish district. To follow them into their gloomy retreat, heretofore untrodden by the footsteps of man, savage or civilised, is the task reserved for the ardent and danger-defying naturalist. On the banks of the river Amoor, the influence of man on nature will ere long be marvellously developed.

WORKING BY THE ELECTRIC LIGHT AT THE BRIDGE OF KEHL.

A BRIDGE is now being constructed between Strasbourg and Kehl, which is to unite the French and German railways, and which, from the mechanical difficulties to be surmounted, is a most important undertaking in engineering science. It has been discovered that the bed of the river, to the depth of 240 feet, is of so soft a nature, that the means of establishing a good foundation can only be achieved by employing all that science can teach. Again, the stream at this portion of the Rhine has been known to attain the rapidity of 900 feet per

minute, which materially tends to embarrass the operations of the workmen. Indeed, floods from the neighbouring mountains of the Vosges and Black Forest often cause the river to rise some fathoms in a few hours.

The necessity for advancing the bridge requires the works to be continued by night; and to render this possible, recourse has been had to the agency of the electric light. At the hour at which the evening-bell rings, a flood of brilliancy is thrown over the river from shore to shore; and, by contrast, makes that portion of the stream which the light does not touch, appear blacker than the fabled Styx.



WORKING BY THE ELECTRIC LIGHT AT THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE RHINE, AT KEHL.



MONTENEGRIN YOUTH RELATING HIS DEEDS OF VALOUR.—(FROM A SKETCH BY F. BANITZ.—SEE PAGE 211.)



AN ASSEMBLAGE OF MONTENEGRIN CHIEFS.—(FROM A SKETCH BY F. BANITZ.—SEE PAGE 211.)

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 93. THE REFORM DEBATE.

SIR EDWARD BULWER LYTTON.

WHEN the Colonial Secretary rose to deliver his views on the subject of Reform, we knew we might anticipate one of his "great orations." We all know here when Sir Edward is going to speak, as well as we know that the sun is about to rise when a streak of light appears over the eastern hills, or that it is going to rain when thick, heavy clouds slowly roll up from the south-west. When Sir Edward has made up his mind to speak, he is restless, uneasy, and wanders about the House and the lobby with his hands in his pockets and his eyes upon the ground. The Right Honourable Baronet has lately made some change in the appearance of his outward man. He used, until he took office, to wear a formidable moustache and a long ragged "imperial," but he has now clipped and trimmed these hirsute ornaments, and looks neater and more like an Englishman than he did last year. Sir Edward's speech is said to have been a grand oration. Nay, one enthusiastic member declared that it was "one of the grandest orations which have ever been delivered in the House of Commons." To this, of course, we should demur, though we are not competent fully to decide upon its merits; for, in truth, though we listened attentively, we could not catch more than half of what the Right Honourable Baronet said. The voice we heard, but, alas, before it reached us it was only a voice; the articulate sounds, by the manner in which they were projected from the mouth, were, before they reached us, most of them inarticulate—mere sounds, conveying no meaning. On looking over Sir Edward's speech as reported in the "Times," we find the following passage, than which few things finer have been uttered in the course of the debate: "The popular voice is like the grave; it cries 'give, give,' but like the grave, it never returns what it receives." Well, the condition in which this remark came up to us was something like this—"The popular yah! is like the grah! it cried yah! yah! but like the grah! it never returns." At the close of the sentence Sir Edward dropped his head so low that the last word or two went under the table. Members down below, we apprehend, must have heard Sir Edward better, for they cheered vociferously. Indeed, at the close of this remarkable harangue, the cheering was beyond everything that we ever heard in the House or indeed elsewhere. It was literally a "tempest of applause," and seemed to us to come from all parts of the House. It burst forth as the orator sat down like a hurricane, was renewed, and re-renewed, and then, when it seemed to have died out, was started again, and once more the whole House appeared to join in chorus. And all this was rendered more effective by the members rising just then to go to dinner, and cheering as they rose. A proud man was Sir Edward that night, as members came up to congratulate him on his success, and probably he went home and dreamed, either waking or sleeping, that he had secured a great parliamentary name, and that future historians will say of him that in addition to being a most successful novelist he was one of the greatest orators of his time. Well, perhaps they may, and with truth; but that, to our mind, is not saying much. It is only saying that he is one of the "Tritons among Minnows," for every "great debate" which we hear only still further confirms the opinion which we have often uttered in these columns, that though we have many eloquent and effective speakers, we have no great orators. As a test, let us ask ourselves the question—Will any one, centuries hence, study the speeches delivered in this great debate, as scholars now study the orations of Demosthenes and Cicero, or will our immediate descendants read them with interest as we do the speeches of Burke, Erskine, or Brougham? We read them now because we are mixed up in the political contest which rages, but ten years hence shall we read them? and in 1959 will our descendants turn to them as studies?

MR. BYNG.

But we must pass on—for all this while we have left an Honourable Member waiting. When Sir Edward sat down, and whilst the storm was raging, and members were everywhere on the wing, Mr. Byng arose, and was fortunate enough to catch the Speaker's eye; but for several minutes it was impossible for him to attempt to speak, for no voice—not that of Stentor himself—could have lifted itself up above the roar of that hurricane; and Mr. Byng's small voice would have been no more than the piping of a wren in a West Indian tornado. And so Mr. Byng quietly waited until the applause subsided, and the hungry crowd was gone, and then began. And what a contrast was the whole scene to that which had just passed away! Just now the House was crammed; and there stood at the table a fierce-looking man, vociferating and gesticulating as if he were mad, and the House every now and then broke out into a roar, as if the speaker had infected his hearers with his madness. Now the House is nearly empty—still and calm as a summer's eve; and, instead of the wild gesticulator, who had so lately lashed his audience to fury, there stands a pale, thin, diminutive youth, delivering a neat and polished and evidently well-studied address, in soft and musical tones, but with no more energy nor action than a young lady displays when she says her "poetry" to her governess. After a storm a calm is pleasant, but this is too calm—it is oppressive, or rather let us say soothing, lulling—fer so we found it. For a time we resolutely listened, and for a time the gentle words came full upon our ears, and entered into the mind, but soon they became broken words, then they resolved into a mere humming, and at last the humming ceased altogether; and House and all its members passed away; and we drop off into a profound, and—after the excitement of listening to and staring at the Colonial Secretary—a grateful slumber. How long we slept we cannot tell, but we were suddenly aroused by what appeared to us a terrific crash. At first we thought we were in our easy chair at home, and that a tea-tray had been sacrificed; but soon the whole scene came full before us—the carved galleries, the yellow light, the gorgeous velvet curtains, and we found that it was not a crash but a cheer that broke our slumbers—a cheer to greet

MR. SIDNEY HERBERT.

who was now upon his legs. Mr. Sidney Herbert is what is called "a Peelite;" but the term is fast going out of use. When parties changed sides in 1857, the Right Honourable Gentleman for a time flitted about the House, and had no settled seat. Sometimes he would drop into his old place, near Sir James Graham and Mr. Gladstone, on the Ministerial side below the gangway; then you might see him lower down, on the extreme right; but at length he quietly dropped down on the opposite side of the House, near Lord John Russell and Mr. Roebuck. Mr. Herbert is a tall, handsome, aristocratic-looking gentleman, with a fine face and remarkably large, penetrating eyes. When he began to speak, the House filled rapidly, for two reasons. First, he is an attractive speaker—delivers what he has to say in flowing, forcible language, accompanied by graceful action and bearing; and secondly, as he occupies a somewhat singular position, not being pledged to either party, every body was anxious to learn how he would pronounce on this great occasion. Mr. Herbert did not leave the House long in doubt, for, amidst the cheers of the Opposition, he at once opened fire against the Bill and its promoters, and in strong racy English analysed the measure, and turned the position of the Government inside out. Some of his taunts were very effective, and were received with great glee by the Opposition. "If we had shut our eyes," he said, "it would have been difficult to imagine that some of the orations which have been delivered from the Ministerial side of the House had not been spoken from this side." And again—"I don't go the length of some of my Conservative friends. I am not prepared for electoral districts." But we must leave Mr. Sidney Herbert. Perhaps when we have to notice him again in these columns, he will be on the Ministerial bench. He seems to be trending that way.

MR. BERNAL OSBORNE.

But we must hasten on to overtake the events of this busy week. On Thursday the principal performers were Mr. Bernal Osborne and Mr. Bright. The former arose about ten o'clock. It was suspected that Mr. Osborne meant to speak, and members were on the watch for his rising; and when it was reported in the lobbies and smoky that "Osborne was up," the knots of gossipers and loungers were broken

up, cigars were dropped, and every man rushed into the House to see, and hear, and enjoy the expected fun. And at the clubs, too, all was hurry-scurry. For when Mr. Osborne arose, the telegraph flashed the news to Pall Mall; dinner-parties were broken up, and in a minute every available cab was on the move. Mr. Osborne's speech was pronounced to be a "great success." It did not probably change an opinion, and certainly did not gain a vote, but it kept the House in a roar of laughter and cheers for an hour, and therefore was a success. We have often been asked by persons who read, but have never heard Mr. Osborne's speeches, what there is in them that so excites the House, and we confess that we could never give a satisfactory answer. We have heard Mr. Osborne often, and have joined in the merriment that he excited, but when all was over, we acknowledge that we could never tell why we laughed; and reading the speech which excited our mirth, we have not unfrequently had a feeling that we had over-night played the fool. It is probably the Honourable Member's manner, more than his matter, that excites us. There is nothing particularly provocative of sorrow in the word "Mesopotamia," but we are told that Whitfield could make his audience weep by his manner of pronouncing it. We think, however, that there can be no doubt that the House of Commons is, of all assemblies that we know, most easily excited to merriment. A foreign friend of ours, who had visited the House, noticed this peculiarity, and quietly remarked when he came home, that he thought "the House of Commons was a most laffable House."

MR. BRIGHT.

After an interval of two hours, which were occupied by Mr. Walpole, Mr. Bright arose. Mr. Walpole was listened to with grave attention, for he stands in a peculiar position just now; and moreover he is held in great respect by the House—in greater respect now than ever, for it is felt that in throwing up his office, just at the time when he might have reasonably expected a handsome pension for life, he has made no small sacrifice for conscience' sake—but he could hardly keep the House together. One by one the members sidled out, and when he closed, the House was visibly much thinner than when he began. But it filled again in a moment when Mr. Bright arose. In the division lobbies, we were told, not a soul was to be seen. The library and smoking-room were deserted, and for an hour not a single member was observed to enter the House; but it was not the expectation of fun which now attracted the members, for in that sort of vanity Mr. Bright never indulges. He seldom laughs, does not even cheer, except on rare occasions, and never attempts to provoke merriment. Neither is it the characteristic of his speeches that they call forth cheers. The attention of the House, not its applause, is what the Member for Birmingham strives to obtain. And he succeeds—succeeds beyond any other speaker in the House. It is really a fine sight in the House when Bright is speaking. Every seat is occupied; crowds of men are standing at the bar and behind the chair; and in the side-galleries, which, on ordinary occasions, are vacant, the benches are all full. The reporters are all assiduously employed; and through the brass-screen behind the ladies can be observed, eagerly listening to catch every word, those in the front rank flattening their faces against the net-work, and those behind stretching forward their heads over the shoulders of those in the front. This is the attitude in which we like best to see the House—an attitude of eager, rapt attention. And this is the attitude which we deem to be most flattering to the speaker. Not laughter, but attention, would please us best if we had to address the House; for we rather sympathise with that old orator who exclaimed, when the mirth of his audience was excited: "What foolish thing have I said that these people laugh?" We have said that it is not the characteristic of Mr. Bright's speeches that they call forth cheers; but it must not be thought that they are not cheered, for they are, and heartily too. Indeed we fancy that no man's speeches are so heartily cheered—if the word heartily means "from the heart," as the dictionaries tell us it does. Of Mr. Bright's speech we can say nothing here, for our space fails, nor is there much occasion, as we have often spoken of the eloquence of this remarkable man.

EPISODE.

On Friday we had a little episode, which we must not pass over. After a long dreary speech from Sir Stafford Northcote, Mr. Cardwell arose and Mr. Beaumont. The Speaker called upon Mr. Cardwell, but for some reason or other, which we cannot understand, a large number of members was bent upon having Mr. Beaumont, and for a short time we had quite a storm. "Beaumont! Beaumont!" was shouted from all parts of the House; and whilst this was going on both the Honourable Members, contrary to all rule, were upon their legs. This disturbance continued for some minutes, Mr. Speaker sitting all the while impassive in his chair waiting for it to subside. At length Mr. Bentinck arose to order, and asked whether it was not the practice of the House that when a new member rises he should be heard? The question was loudly cheered by the friends of Mr. Beaumont, and for a time it seemed as though the insurgents would gain the victory; but at this crisis Lord Palmerston came to the rescue of the Chair. "I will ask the House," said the Noble Lord, "whether it is usual, or respectful, or orderly, when the Speaker has named a member, to disturb the proceedings in this way?" This brought the House to its senses; loud cheers burst forth, with cries of "Chair!" "Chair!" and the insurrection was quelled. And we may dismiss the subject with the remark that there is a rule, not written but generally understood, that new members wishing to speak shall have precedence; but Mr. Beaumont can hardly be called a new member, seeing that he came into the House so far back as 1852.

SIR JAMES GRAHAM.

On Monday Mr. Edwin James made what may be styled his *début*, although he had already addressed the House, though not at any length, on previous occasions; but as it would be unfair to judge him decisively from this attempt, we shall leave Mr. James with the remark that his speech did not at all disappoint our hopes that the Learned Gentleman would prove an effective parliamentary debater—for we had never cherished any. The speech of the evening was Sir James Graham's—which was looked for with great anxiety, for though rumours were afloat that the "old Knight of Netherby" would oppose the Government, nothing was certain until the Right Honourable Baronet arose and pronounced. Now, however, the question is decided, for never was there delivered in the House of Commons a more crushing, damaging, "mischievous" speech, than that which Sir James delivered against the Government Reform Bill on Monday night. It was a speech that no one in the world, besides Sir James, could have delivered. So "wickedly conceived," as a Government member said, so artfully contrived, so coldly, deliberately, and with such evident, mischievous purpose, was it uttered, that it made us, whilst we listened, almost pity those at whom it was aimed. Listening to this speech, was like standing by in one of the torture chambers of the Inquisition, whilst some grim unfeeling executioner was slowly torturing some poor wretch upon the rack.

THE KINGLAKE.

In our remarks on Mr. Eöthen Kinglake, a fortnight since, we confounded that gentleman's honest baptismal names with those of Mr. Serjeant Kinglake. "John Alexander" is the Serjeant. "Alexander William" is the author of "Eöthen."

SEVERAL FRENCH OFFICERS have been sent to Moldavia and Wallachia to drill the descendants of the ancient Romans.

BURIED ALIVE.—A man named Woolfries, and a lad named Bartlett, descended a clay mine near Wareham last week, to work. They had not long been down when the sides of the shaft gave way, closing up the entrance to the mine, which is upwards of seventy feet deep, to within about six feet of the top. Fortunately a new shaft was being sunk a few yards off, and some men immediately commenced operations in both shafts to rescue the prisoners. All Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, of last week, the utmost exertions were made, refreshments being provided for the miners during the night. The greatest excitement prevailed in the neighbourhood, and great fears were entertained whether the poor fellows would be alive when found. At length, at midnight, of Thursday, the two men were released from their perilous position. They had now been imprisoned for upwards of eighty-six hours.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE FINANCES OF INDIA.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH moved that there be laid before the House copies of all the notifications issued by the Governor-General of India, from the commencement of 1857 to the present time, relative to the terms on which the Indian Government would receive money on loan; and to call the attention of the House to the state of the money-market in India, as affected by the more recent of such notifications. The Earl commented on the continued fall of the public securities in India since January. This depression was not, in his opinion, to be attributed to political difficulties, but to the mode in which the Indian Government had attempted to raise money. As great had these difficulties become, that it was reported that the salaries of Government officers in Oude had not been paid, but only that part which was called subsistence money.

LORD DEARBY admitted, with regret, that the statement of Lord Ellenborough was well-founded; and was sorry to inform the House that it would be necessary to ask Parliament this session for power to raise a further sum for Indian purposes. A deficit of £11,500,000, in round numbers, had to be provided for. Deducting £1,000,000 that would shortly be forwarded to India, there would remain £10,500,000, which would be further reduced by another million from a reserve fund of £12,000,000. This would leave £9,500,000, which the Governor-General proposed to reduce to £8,000,000 by imposing a slight tax on imports, stamps, and home-grown tobacco. These eight millions were to be paid off by a loan in India of £5,000,000, and the Governor-General looked to this country to forward £3,000,000 in addition to what had been already forwarded. Under these circumstances, her Majesty's Government had come to the conclusion that it would be necessary to ask for leave to raise a further sum than the £7,000,000 at first contemplated. What the exact sum would be he could not yet say; it would be at least £3,000,000, and perhaps £5,000,000. This was exclusive of prize money and compensation. As to the report about the retention of salaries of officers in Oude, he had received no information.

After a few words from the Marquis of Clanricarde, Lord Montagu, and Lord Althorpe, Lord ELLENBOROUGH made a few remarks in reply, and the motion was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM BILL DEBATE.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL, referring to some allegations hazarded by Mr. Osborne respecting some passages in his (Sir H. Cairns's) speech to the Belfast electors, declared that the statements then made by the member for Dover, and the inferences founded upon them, were altogether false and inaccurate.

The adjourned debate on the second reading of the Representation of the People Bill was resumed by

SIR S. NORTHGOTE, who submitted that the Government, in bringing forward their measure, were subjected to extraordinary and unusual embarrassments: first, because they were confessedly in a minority in that House; secondly, because they had undertaken the question under compulsion; and thirdly, because they were encountered, not by a direct negative to their bill, but by a vague resolution with which it was exceedingly difficult to deal, though, if carried, it would seriously hamper the Legislature in their future discussion of the question. These embarrassments had been further increased by the resignation of two ministers, especially as that step had been associated with the much-estimated proposition for equalising the county and borough franchise. As an illustration, it had been suggested that the Government should withdraw their bill, and replace it by another measure framed in accordance with the propositions laid down by the late Home Secretary. After showing cause for the rejection of this proposal, the Right Hon. Baronet adverted to the various objections which had been urged against the proposed method of dealing with the county and borough franchise, and maintained that no point was involved in these objections which could not be fully considered in committee, or which the Ministry had not, indeed, already signified their readiness to discuss, and accept any modification that might be approved by the House. On this point Sir S. Northcote entered at large, insisting that the Opposition had unreasonably interpreted various provisions essentially of detail as involving principles which must determine the absolute acceptance or rejection of the measure.

MR. CARDWELL said it might be inferred from the speech of Sir S. Northcote that this bill contained no single proposition that could be dignified by the title of a principle; that it was not to accomplish any important practical result, or confer any substantial benefit upon the country; but that it was made to pass. The real object of any Reform Bill was to diminish the effect of extraneous influences at elections, and increase the power of public opinion. As means to this end, three changes in the existing system of representation had been proposed. First, the transfer of seats from the small boroughs to large and populous constituencies. This proposal, however, they were assured that the Government declined to entertain. Secondly, there was the modification of the county and borough franchise, on which point he urged many objections to the proposed assimilation of the two franchises, contending that the preservation of the old diversity between these classes of the constituency was a valuable and essential element in the representative organisation of the country. This conclusion he regarded as so important that he could not consent to leave it for decision in committee. "Uniformity" was a principle which the bill contained and the resolution condemned, and he was therefore compelled by his sense of duty to support the resolution.

MR. H. DRUMMOND contended that all the questions raised by the opponents to the bill were merely questions of degree. No principle was at stake requiring the rejection of the Reform Bill now presented to the House.

MR. DENT and Lord H. VANE supported the resolution, which was opposed by MR. JACKE.

MR. S. WORTLEY (who had put on the paper an amendment to the bill, or, if carried, to the resolution) deprecated the attempt to stifle the measure by an indirect amendment. By declining to move a direct negative to the bill, Lord John Russell had himself confessed that there was some good in it. Why not, then, preserve what was good, and improve the less acceptable provisions in committee, instead of throwing over the whole measure? The House, in their address to the Crown, had promised to give the question "a calm and impartial consideration"—a pledge which would be hardly redeemed if it were allowed to become the stalking-horse of a great party movement. Examining in much detail the various provisions of the bill, he maintained that they offered a wide extension of franchise privileges. There was, however, more to be done both in disfranchising small boroughs and extending the suffrage, especially in such wise as to include the class of skilled artisans; but who could bring in a reform bill with any chance of passing it if the present Government were defeated in the attempt?

LORD PALMERSTON announced his intention to give a cordial support to the resolution proposed by Lord J. Russell. That resolution, nevertheless, did not, in his opinion, imply a censure upon the Government; it simply brought into discussion some of the leading principles of their bill. Long as this debate had lasted, the time of the House was not thrown away. Much progress had already been effected. At the outset it was supposed that the disfranchisement of the borough freeholders and equalisation of the county and borough franchise were fundamental elements in their measure, and absolutely essential to its existence; but it now appeared that the Government were open to discussion and conviction on those points, and if the debate went on long enough, he hoped that they would gradually concede all other controverted provisions in their bill. Denying on his own part the charge of being actuated by party motives, he acquitted the Ministers also of having acted inconsistently with their party principles by bringing in a reform bill. They took the government with its engagements. A reform bill had been promised to the country, and the new Administration were bound to redeem the pledge. As Conservatives, moreover, they were obliged to include some conservative elements in their measure. The Noble Lord then proceeded to examine the various provisions of the bill, expressing a qualified approval of the proposal for lowering the county franchise and of the limited range of their proposed disfranchisement of small boroughs. But the government had introduced ingredients utterly inconsistent with the ancient principles of the constitution, by the assimilation of franchise and transfer of votes between the counties and boroughs—a step which he regarded as actually equivalent to the establishment of electoral districts. This feature in the bill was so important that it could only be properly treated as a question of principle upon the motion for second reading. If the resolution were carried, he did not believe that the Ministry would resign. He did not wish them to resign. He even thought it was their duty to remain in office and carry out the measure they had undertaken, and which no other administration could deal with under similar advantages. The threat of dissolution he looked upon as a mere brutum fulmen. In the present state of public business Parliament could not be dissolved, except with its own consent, and he did not think that consent would be given. Nor did he believe, as the last alternative which had been suggested, that the Government would abandon the bill. They were pledged to accept the decision of the House on its every clause, and could not shrink from this self-imposed duty.

MR. WHITESIDE suspected that three authors had assisted in the concoction of the resolution, and had made it only a muddy resolution after all. The amendment, though plausibly framed, did not apply to the bill, and he cited opinions expressed in former speeches to prove that the supporters of

the resolution had themselves at different times approved of every principle embodied in the measure. Adverting to the surmises of Lord Palmerston touching the future conduct of the Government, he declared most emphatically that Ministers would never touch the bill again, if this offensive resolution were attached to it.

On the motion of Mr. E. JAMES the debate was again adjourned.

MONDAY, MARCH 28.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The Earl of CLARENDON inquired into the conditions on which the pending Congress of European Powers was convened, and the prospects of peace which this meeting of diplomatists had appeared to render possible, by the amicable solution of existing controversies. His Lordship said her Majesty's Government had acted wisely in sending Lord Cowley to Vienna, and in not committing themselves to either party. He thought that, as a preliminary step to the meeting of the Congress, a reduction of military armaments ought to be made imperative.

Lord MALMESBURY was quite ready to give every information consistently with the public interests. Lord Cowley, who before he quitted Paris had made himself master of the views of the French Government in regard to the Italian question, had been received at Vienna with the greatest frankness and cordiality, and readily ascertained the points on which Count Buol was willing to enter into negotiations for the preservation of peace. When, on the 16th of this month, Lord Cowley returned to Paris, he found that the French and Russian Governments had been in communication, and that Russia intended to recommend a Congress to the five great Powers to consider the Italian question. Her Majesty's Government had accepted the Congress on certain conditions on the 23rd of this month, since which time the other great Powers had given their consent. It was not, however, yet agreed what details the Congress should discuss. As the question so nearly concerned the social and political condition of Italy, he considered that the Italian States, one and all, should have the means of speaking on the subject. It might be satisfactory for the House to hear that, although a disarmament was not agreed to, both Austria and Piedmont had declared that they would abstain from all hostilities. Under these circumstances, he expressed his conviction that peace would be preserved.

The Companies' Act (1859) Bill, the Medical Act (1858) Amendment Bill, and Oaths Act Amendment Bill, were read a third time and passed.

The House then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE.

The adjourned debate on the Reform Bill was resumed by Mr. E. JAMES, who supported the resolution proposed by Lord J. Russell, commenting upon the insufficiency of the ministerial measure and the evident weakness of the ministerial position. The various franchises created under the bill, while adding considerably to the aggregate mass of the constituency, would in reality give occasion for an extensive manufacture of votes, which might be converted to the worst purposes of faction. As to the results of the vote which the House was now called upon to give, he declared that although the existing Government had forfeited public confidence, yet that no administration which Lord John Russell could form would enjoy a larger share of support, if its members were merely nominated out of the whig "stud-book."

Mr. BRAMMONT, observing that for seven years he had been a faithful supporter of Lord Palmerston, regretted that he should find himself under the necessity of voting against the resolution, which he regarded merely as an ingenious and well-wordsed trap.

Lord ELCHO observed, upon the general question of the representation of the people, that he saw no necessity for any great change; and he did not believe there was an earnest desire for it out of doors. However, a change could not be resisted; the matter must be settled without delay; and with that view he should vote against the resolution and in favour of the bill. He could not look at the resolution in any other light than as a party move, framed by the mover, not with a view to personal aggrandisement, but to get as many votes as he could and turn out the Government. The bill might be dealt with more conveniently in committee, and he did not pledge himself to support the details of the measure, which he regarded as embodying the general principles of a scheme of reform. He believed this to be a sound one—that the representation should rest, not upon population or upon property alone, but upon interests. The bill, it was said, would not settle the question, but what scheme would? In conclusion, Lord Elcho discussed the alternatives which would present themselves in the event of a defeat of the Government upon this question—namely, dissolution, which he deprecated, or resignation; warning the opponents of the Ministry against playing a game that would lead to a coalition between Lord J. Russell and Mr. Bright.

Mr. ELLICE, objecting to the bill for reasons of detail, which he explained with much particularity, observed that as matters stood he felt bound to support the resolution, as presenting the only available method of defeating a measure whose provisions were so objectionable.

Colonel SMYTH admitted that the bill was objectionable in some respects. As it might, however, be amended in committee, and as it was brought forward by a Government which had won confidence, and deserved it, he consented to vote for the second reading.

Mr. J. LOCKE consented to adopt the amendment, though believing that it did not go half far enough, but as a preferable alternative to the government measure.

Lord A. V. TEMPEST supported the bill.

Mr. M. MILNES thought the Government embarrassed as they must be by such a subject, ought to have waited until a reform bill had come from the other side of the House. They had, however, preferred to bring forward themselves a formal and objectionable measure. He felt bound to vote for the resolution, though he should have preferred discussing it in committee.

Sir J. GRAHAM had hoped that the House might have been spared the duty of revising and altering the act of 1832, while it grated on his ears to hear it now called an empirical measure. It might, perhaps, be called an experimental bill, but as such it had proved most successful. The change effected by that act was immense. It amounted, in fact, to a complete though bloodless revolution; and, being so extensive, he had long believed that it might be considered final. But as finality could no longer be predicated of the present system, he submitted that in any measure of further reform the chief object to be attained was the settlement of the question, at any rate for some time to come, and thus close a controversy in which the very foundations of the constitution were made the subject of debate. Adverting to the bill, he contended that though emanating from a Conservative Government, it was founded on a total misconception of conservative principles. Identity of suffrage was the keystone of the measure, with electoral districts and voting papers as collateral arrangements. These, he maintained, bordered upon, and could with slight change be converted into, the chief "points" of the democratic charter, equal electoral districts, manhood suffrage, and vote by ballot. Sir J. Graham then explained the part he had taken in framing the resolution before the House. Lord John Russell, who with himself were the only remaining members of that House who had served on the committee which prepared the Reform Act of 1832, had conferred with him respecting the present measure when first laid on the table. They both were prepared to vote against the second reading if a direct negative were required, but concurred in thinking that the capital defects of the bill could be set forth in a resolution of the means suggested for remedying them. This had been done; the proposition lay before the Legislature, who would exercise their discretion in accepting or rejecting it; but if accepted, the responsibility rested with the Government of modifying their measure in accordance with the principles so established, and which he thought would render the bill safe, sufficient, and acceptable alike to the House and the country. The Right Hon. Baronet then criticised the provisions of the ministerial measure. He objected to the proposed voting papers, as presenting a near approximation to the ballot, a system to which he was still opposed, while confessing that the demand for it was rapidly spreading among the public. To the larger franchise he also objected, as comprehending a floating and irresponsible class of the population; and, if the minimum of rental was reduced, as had been suggested, to four shillings per week, bringing about something very closely approximating to universal suffrage. Passing on to future contingencies, the Right Honourable Baronet declared that he had no wish to overthrow the Government, and no intention of pursuing a factious course. If the Ministers thought that they could not go on with the bill, and chose to appeal to the country, he should do nothing to frustrate that purpose; but he warned them that no executive administration had ever, upon similar grounds, ventured to incur an equal responsibility.

Sir J. PAKINGTON enforced the allegation that the course adopted by Lord John Russell was unconstitutional and irregular; he declined to discuss the bill, and merely sought to embarrass the Administration. Adverting to the speech of Lord Palmerston, he observed that, in recommending the Government to accept the resolution, he had conveyed a covert insult; and in declaring that the House could not be dissolved without its own consent, he had challenged the royal prerogative. The Government had never threatened the House with dissolution, but were resolved upon this point: that if the resolution were carried, they would have nothing to do with the bill. In committee they were ready to discuss any amendments, but would not consent to be fettered by a preliminary resolution, proposed in an unusual way and for a factious purpose. For many years all motives of public interest had been subordinated to party intrigues; and two many instances had already occurred in which advantage was taken of the circumstances of the hour to bring forward motions designed to disconcert the existing Ad-

ministration. Sir John then adverted to the details of the measure, replying to the objections urged against its various provisions by Lord J. Russell and Sir J. Graham.

Mr. GLADSTONE having moved the adjournment of the debate, Sir G. GREY, referring to the statement that the resolution now under discussion was unconstitutional and irregular, denied that allegation, and appealed to the Speaker to corroborate his opinion on that point. After some explanations from Sir J. PAKINGTON, The SPEAKER ruled that the resolution was perfectly in order. The debate then stood adjourned; and after disposing of the remaining business on the paper, the House adjourned also.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

TRIAL BY JURY.

The second reading of the Juries in Civil Causes Bill was moved by Lord CAMPBELL, who explained and vindicated at much length the provisions of the measure, by which the opinion of three-fourths of the jury empanelled to try civil causes was to be accepted as determining the verdict.

Lord LYNCHBURST opposed the bill, objecting to invade a principle which had been recognised for 500 years throughout the whole system of British jurisprudence, the unanimity of juries.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said the bill was calculated to shake all confidence in the administration of justice. He thought, however, that a jury should not be debarred from proper refreshment; they ought not to be forced into a decision by the weakness of the flesh, but should be in a proper condition to discharge the duties required from them.

Lord GRANVILLE, Lord CRANWORTH, and Lord KINGSDOWN, supported the Bill, which was opposed by Lord WENSLYDALE.

After a few words from Lord CAMPBELL in reply, on a division the Bill was thrown out, there being 7 for and 23 against it.

Some other business was gone through and the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM QUESTION.

The adjourned debate on the Representation of the People Bill was renewed, with the understanding, at the suggestion of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, that it was to terminate on Thursday.

Mr. GLADSTONE was the first speaker. He began by observing on the concurrence of opinion which had been shown by previous speakers on this question. While such was the coincidence of opinion in the substance of the problem under discussion, it was much to be regretted that the House should be perturbed and divided by a controversy raised upon an indirect if not upon a false issue. On the motion for second reading, every bill should be regarded as a whole. An inconvenient novelty was now introduced by assailing at that stage the details of the present measure. He was therefore unable to support the resolution of Lord John Russell, nor, he might say, the bill of the Government as it stood. The resolution was confessedly not intended for the amendment of the bill, but for its rejection. If there had been a contingent prospect of a strong government likely to carry a Reform Bill, he might have supported the resolution. But of this he saw no chance; since the various sections of the House, who might combine to reject the Government bill, would immediately afterwards become at variance among themselves again. The difficulty of the Government arose from the errors they had committed in framing their measure. He felt, nevertheless, that the Ministry—partly as the originators of the bill, partly as happening to be already in office, and partly because all other parties had failed in their attempts to solve the problem—were entitled to claim much forbearance from the House when endeavouring to contrive a satisfactory scheme of representative reform. If the resolution were carried, the bill would manifestly be defeated. Yet while agreeing with much that had been said against it, he still thought the measure contained some acceptable provisions, and ought to be considered in committee. Among others, he approved of the proposed redistribution of seats, which of itself comprised the most important element of every reform bill. Any comprehensive disfranchisement of small boroughs would prove fatal to the carriage of the bill; and if carried, would prove injurious to the character of the House. By small constituencies, and nomination boroughs, there are brought into the House the representatives of various interests. You introduce those calm, sagacious, retired observers, who are averse to the rough contact necessary in canvassing large bodies of electors, but who form no small part of the best substrata of the House, and contribute greatly to the efficiency of the representative system. The apparent paradox was, he declared, only one on paper. In practice it disappeared, and by way of proof cited the examples of Pelham, Chatham, Fox, Pitt, Canning, and Peel, all of whom had obtained ingress to Parliament through the medium of nomination boroughs. Recurring to the dilemma in which the House seemed to be placed, Mr. Gladstone urged that if they did not pass the resolution they were sure of their object; whereas if it was adopted, it would not rest with the House to determine the ulterior step, and the settlement of this question would be retarded. If they went into committee on the bill, the House must act irrespectively of the intentions of those who had introduced the measure; they would then have an opportunity of considering the question purely in the interest of reform. Having the matter in their own hands, the House would act wisely in keeping it there; while as for a dissolution, or a change of Government at this moment, it would greatly embarrass the interests of the country.

Mr. MONCRIEFF contended that the resolution related not to fundamental points, but to the fundamental principles of the bill; which was altogether an experimental measure, and would prolong instead of terminating the agitation of the question.

Mr. ROBERT PALMER said he disliked the bill; but, regarding the resolution as a mere party move, he intended to vote against it, especially as Government had intimated their willingness freely to discuss all the details of the measure when it got into committee.

Mr. WESTHEAD believed the bill would injuriously disturb the existing balance of parties. It afforded extended scope for the exercise of corrupt influences, and manifested a marked distrust of the working classes.

Major EDWARDS accepted the bill as conferring a great boon on the country, by enfranchising at least 300,000 persons who at present were denied electoral privileges.

Mr. COLLIER spoke in favour of the resolution; Sir J. WALSH against it. Mr. K. MACAULAY contended that the principle of the bill, looking at it broadly, was to give a wide extension of the suffrage to the whole community of the country. The principle was that there should be, or might be in all constituencies, voters qualified as owners of fixed property, or by mere occupation, or by certain personal qualifications. Their principle was good, and he should vote for the bill.

Mr. MELLOR supported the amendment. Mr. HARDY defended the bill, declaring that the Reform bills which Lord John Russell himself brought in contained propositions of disfranchisement quite as large as that he so much censured in the present measure. The framers of the amendment had carefully abstained from pledging themselves to a single detail on this or any other point. Belonging to different parties, they were able to combine only in favour of a resolution which meant nothing; and if the success of the resolution enabled its co-concoters to form a ministry, before long they would be assailed by their own supporters with propositions for sweeping reforms, and seek to shelter themselves under the protection of their Conservative antagonists.

Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD characterised the bill as a delusion, and entered into the history of the former Reform Act, to show that the proposed disfranchisement of the borough freeholders was inconsistent with the spirit and intention of that enactment. Only a single member, Mr. Macaulay, had ventured to approve the bill, though many professed their intention of voting for the second reading. He was prepared to support the resolution, even at the sacrifice of the bill, though he did not see why that sacrifice should be incurred, even if the amendment were carried.

On the motion of Mr. DE CAWE, the debate was again adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TRIAL BY JURY (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Mr. DUNLOP moved the second reading of this bill, the object of which is to alter the six hours allowed to Scotch juries for deliberation to three.

The LORD ADVOCATE supported the bill. He said the question before the House was not whether or not an unanimous jury was the most appropriate for the trial of causes, but whether the time for confining jurors for deliberation should be further limited; and the change proposed met with the approval of the Lord Justice-General.

After some further discussion, the bill was read a second time.

BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY BILL.

Lord J. RUSSELL observed that so many amendments were to be proposed upon this bill, that he was inclined to agree to the motion of Mr. BOUVIER for referring it to a select committee. He thought that this measure, and the one which had come down from the House of Lords, should be investigated by the same committee.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL approved of this course.

Mr. HEADLAM, Mr. MOFFAT, and Mr. MALINS agreed that the facts of the matter were sufficiently ascertained to enable the House to legislate on it, and if there was a committee, and the committee called witnesses, there would be no legislation this year.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL remarked that they had got nearly all the information that could be required by the committee in the library of the House, and if they required, as they might require, to take evidence upon certain points, it would then be time enough for them to come to the House for leave to call witnesses.

Lord J. RUSSELL agreed that the committee should not have power in the first instance to call witnesses. The bill was then ordered to be referred to a select committee.

After some further business, the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords held only a brief sitting, in the course of which a few bills were advanced a stage and some routine business done.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM DEBATE.

Mr. DE CAWE claimed much credit to the Government for having taken in hand, under circumstances of peculiar difficulty, the settlement of the controversy respecting parliamentary reform. The resolution of Lord John Russell was vexatious and vague, and he trusted that the House would not by adopting it, frustrate the chance now offered of passing a reform bill in the present session, with the inevitable result of leaving the question open until the time for compromise had passed away.

Sir R. PEEL, contending that the resolution now proposed was perfectly regular and parliamentary, declared—and the declaration was received with cheers, in which Lord J. Russell joined—that its adoption would be immediately followed by the introduction of another bill better calculated to satisfy the country. He was indeed prepared to wait, even for three years, in the hope of obtaining at last a better measure than the crude and undigested scheme of the Government.

Mr. GASKELL exhorted the House to negative the resolution of Lord J. Russell.

Mr. SLANEY, Mr. WESTERN, Mr. GILPIN, and others supported the resolution; while Mr. EGERTON, Mr. COBBETT, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. WYVILL, and Mr. GREENALL declared their intention of voting for the second reading of the bill.

Mr. HENLEY believed that the bill contained a large principle, and in practice would add 50 per cent. to the general mass of the constituency. The Right Hon. Member described the nature and traced the consequences of the proposed alterations in the county franchise, enlarging upon the mischief which must ensue when the counties were flooded with three hundred thousand £10 voters, and all the influence hitherto exercised by property passed into the hands of the class who had become electors merely by an occupancy franchise. With regard to the boroughs, he criticised the "fancy franchises" established by the bill, and expressed his preference for a £6 rating franchise, which would let in about 100,000 new voters. Passing on to Lord John Russell's resolution, he contended that it raised a false issue, and was so vague in expression that it was impossible to discover in it any definite meaning.

Mr. ROXBURGH said the House was now called upon to amend the act of 1832, by removing its two great blemishes, the denial of representation to the working classes and the retention of too wide differences in the magnitude of the constituencies represented. Towards the first object the Government bill effected some progress, especially by the extension of the county franchise. Looking at the measure as a means to this end, he inquired how it could be rendered most serviceable. Was it best to leave the bill in the hands of the present ministers, or take the chance of transferring it to Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell? The former he could not regard as a reformer, while the latter was fettered by party ties, and had long been accustomed to look upon power as an appanage of Whig statesmen. On the whole he preferred the present Government, and would vote for the second reading if they undertook not to throw up the bill should certain extensions, including a £6 borough franchise, be carried in committee. On that assurance, he did not see why the present amendment need be pressed, as the House would have the measure in their own hands, and might mould it as they pleased.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said two objections to the bill were raised in this amendment, one relating to the disfranchisement of borough freeholders, the other enforcing a lower minimum of the borough suffrage. On the former point he urged that no disfranchisement was contemplated in the measure, while Lord John Russell had himself proposed in bills brought in during previous sessions to disfranchise considerable bodies of the electorate. On the suffrage question, Mr. Disraeli described the propositions offered by different governments or suggested by independent members since 1832. In 1854 the Whig ministry had prepared a bill in which the county franchise was reduced to the precise tariff—namely, a £10 occupancy franchise—which the members of that administration so heavily censured in the present measure. In the resolution no scheme of reform was indicated; but in the speech of Sir J. Graham, who was one of its avowed authors, a programme was very definitely drawn out, in which an extensive redistribution of seats, the disfranchisement of a large number of small boroughs, a municipal suffrage, and vote by ballot, were all included. From this programme he argued the existence of a confederacy between the framers of the resolution and Mr. Bright, although they pretended to advocate nothing but a measure of Conservative Reform. If a democracy were established, it would in due season be followed by the evils of a democracy, in an impatience of public burdens, an aggravation of public expenditure, intemperate wars, and ignominious peace. These consequences would ensue if the principle were adopted that the working classes should be admitted to the franchise, not as individuals, but in a multitude. To avert such results, and yet afford the means by which the most industrious and meritorious of these classes could obtain electoral privileges, had been the objects of the Government when devising the various franchises contained in their bill. The uniformity of franchise, so much censured, he denied to exist: in fact, the measure comprised a greater variety of suffrages than had ever been included in any bill offered to Parliament. The Right Hon. Gentleman proceeded to examine the motives which had prompted the amendment by which it was met. He attributed no personal design to Lord J. Russell, but declared that his present attack was made at a moment when questions of the most momentous character were pending in Europe. His conduct had embarrassed the Government, seriously injured the public service, and almost compromised the prospects of peace. He would not threaten dissolution; but, if forced to dissolve, the Government could appeal with confidence to the justice of the country.

The House then divided:—

For the second reading	291
Against	331

Majority against Government 39

The resolution was then put as a substantive motion.

Mr. WYLD moved that the votes at elections should be taken by ballot.

Mr. H. BERKELEY appealed to the Hon. Member to withdraw his motion.

After some confusion, the House divided, when the amendment was negatived by a majority of 320 to 98—222.

Lord John Russell's resolution was then put and carried, without a division.

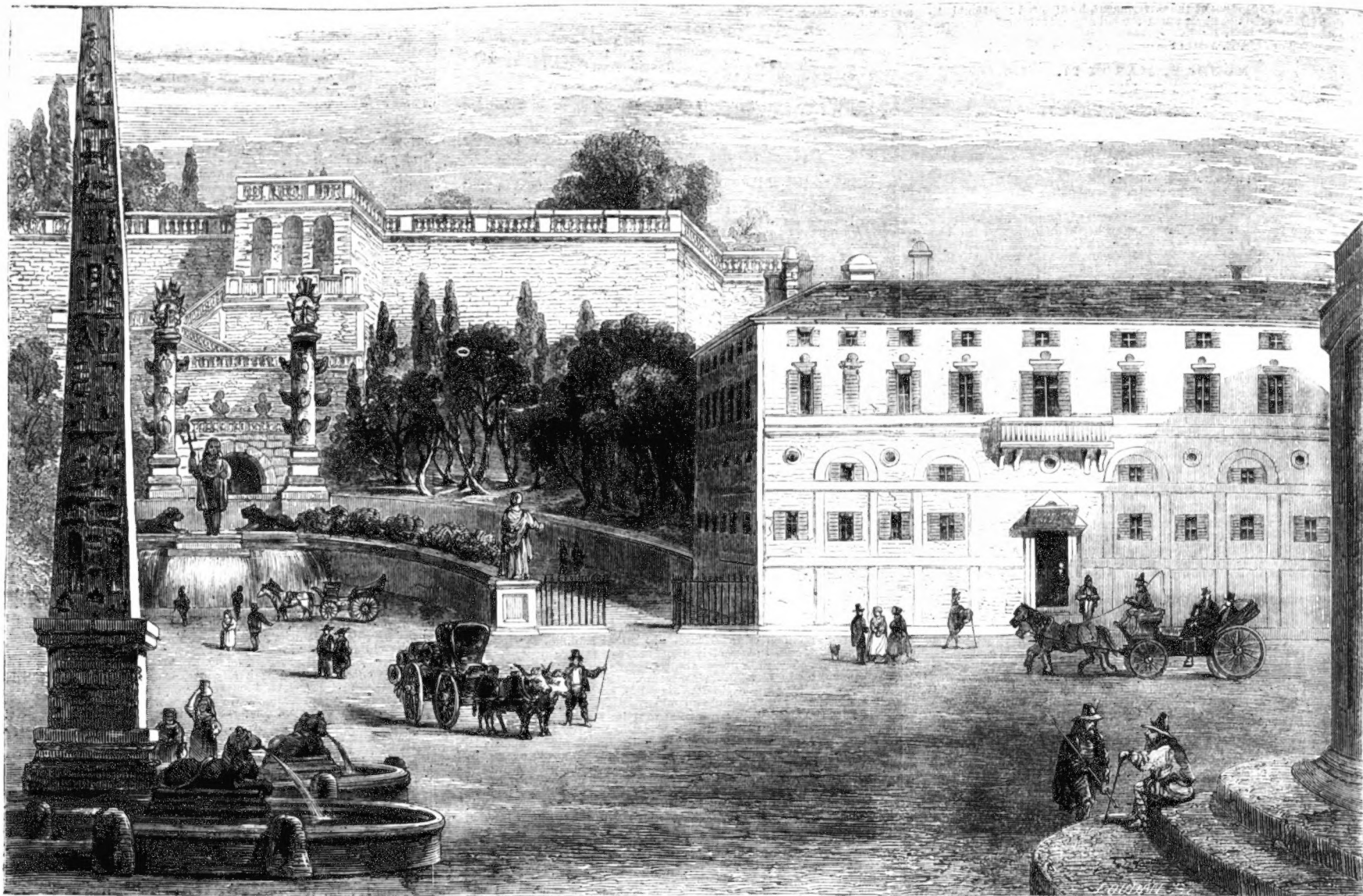
The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved that the House on rising should adjourn until Monday, which was agreed to; and the House broke up at two o'clock.

HAYTIAN AFFAIRS.—An unsuccessful insurrection against the new government has occurred at Jérémie. General Delice Lesperance, governor of the department, had apparently accepted Geffard's republic, but his adhesion was feigned. On the 10th of February, he took possession of a fort that commanded the town, and thence sent agents to incite the people. Delice was to be tried at Port-au-Prince.

LABOUR IN AUSTRALIA.—Every week (says the "Melbourne Argus") the report from the labour offices in town is that the demand is dull, that many more men are offering their services than are immediately required. The farmers are supplied with all the extra hands they want through the harvest. Hundreds of men are idling about all the railway works on the change of being taken on. Many tradesmen and mechanics have long been seeking employment in vain. Such is the burden of each week's report, and unfortunately the statements are too true. Several meetings of the unemployed tradesmen and others have been lately held in Melbourne, to make known and direct attention to what the speakers believed to be the causes of the present difficulty in obtaining employment.

HOTEL DES ILES BRITANNIQUES, THE RESIDENCE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES IN ROME.

THE hotel in which the Prince of Wales has taken apartments, is the best in Rome, and is pleasantly situated near the Porto del Popolo in the piazza of that name. The Prince occupies the whole of the first floor, with the balcony, on which he often makes his appearance, much to the delight of a few loyal Britishers, who assemble below to get a glimpse of their future king. On St. Patrick's Day, the Prince of Wales drove to visit the Irish friars of St. Isidore, and the members of the Irish college at St. Agatha, between the hours of religious service, wearing a large bunch of shamrock in his button-hole, in commemoration of the national festival. The Prince left the friars, whose institution is entirely dependent upon charity, a generous souvenir of his visit. At the college his Royal Highness had an interview with Archbishop Cullen, who attended the Prince to the door upon his departure.—The report that the Prince was about to visit Turin is contradicted.



HOTEL DES ILES BRITANNIQUE, IN THE PIAZZA DEL POPOLO AT ROME, THE RESIDENCE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.—(FROM A SKETCH BY MISS FRISCILLA PRIMROSE.)



BIRD-CATCHING.—(FROM A PICTURE BY W. HEMSLEY, IN THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)



DOS AMIGOS.—(FROM A PICTURE BY R. ANSDALL, IN THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)

DOS AMIGOS.

ALTHOUGH Spain is a country which, like the classical Corinth, it is not the privilege of every one to reach, all our artists seem able to find their way there; and, what is more important, many of them contrive to bring something back. The tendency towards Spain has also touched literary men—witness the Spanish tour of Mr. Hepworth Dixon, with its poetic product as printed some months since in the "Athenæum," and the journey of Mr. Walter Thornbury, who is now publishing the vivid impressions he has brought back from Spain in "Household Words." Such a change of scene and subject is of much advantage both to artists and writers; and this independently of the direct advantage they must derive from having entirely new materials to work upon. The change of sky, though unaccompanied, as the well-

known line teaches, by any change of disposition, has certainly the effect of diverting the mind from one channel of observation or thought into another. It ploughs it up and always fertilises it, unless the ploughing operation takes place too frequently, which happens when the observant traveller degenerates into the restless wanderer. There is no knowing how long Mr. Ansdall would have gone on painting cattle, and cattle-shows, and agricultural meetings—including the portraits of agriculturists, apparently less intelligent than their own oxen—if it had never occurred to him to go to Spain, or some other country where his ideas were likely to undergo a change. As it is, the pictures painted by Mr. Ansdall during his Spanish tour are the best things he has ever produced—alike for colour, character, picturesqueness, and general interest. He has not, to be sure, deserted his favourite animals,

though the horses and cows of "Dos Amigos" and "Isla Mayor" have scarcely more than a zoological resemblance to those of the works the same artist was in the habit of painting in England and Scotland: they are beasts of a different breed, differently equipped, and seen under altogether different circumstances. Of the two pictures sent by Mr. Ansdall to the present exhibition of the British Institution, the most remarkable is his "Dos Amigos" ("Friends"), which gives him an opportunity of proving that he can paint men and women as easily as horses, dogs, deer, and cows, and that he can express bipedal quite as well as quadrupedal character. The friends are meeting at a fair, and the young lady, who is wearing what we are in the habit of considering the costume of a Spanish dancer, is dressed in her holiday attire—for such brilliant colours are not for all days in the year. In England, and

especially in France (for in England there is too much carelessness and ignorance about such matters) ladies tremble at the thought of displaying any two bright colours together in their toilette; yet the girl on horseback in "Dos Amigos" is charmingly dressed, and she actually wears a brown body with a yellow handkerchief folded across it, a pink skirt with a black upper skirt, or some kind of mantilla (we have not read the "Post" lately, and have forgotten our millinery), and in her small hand holds a green fan. The man who sits behind this Pepita or Perea Nena of every-day life, is clothed, as becomes the ugliness of his sex, in sombre attire. Of the figures seated or lying down among the sheep, one in his coat of wool can scarcely be distinguished from the muttons who surround him. He, and the gentleman by his side, who with considerable vacuity of expression is smoking a cigarette, are good personifications of Spanish idleness. Indeed every one is smoking a cigarette, except the person with the donkey, who appears to be asking for one. This latter individual has all the low cunning of a low Irishman (of whom a large portion, and especially those in the district of Galway, are known to have Spanish blood in their veins). The horse on which the beautiful young lady and her fortunate friend are seated, is himself "got up" in the holiday style. His plaited, be-ribboned tail tells of this, and the fullness, or rather tightness, of his magnificent haunches, seems to indicate that he has had at least one extra feed of oats for the occasion.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1859.

THE PRESENT JURY SYSTEM.

On Tuesday, Lord Campbell moved the second reading of his bill for abolishing the enforced unanimity of juries in civil causes. The Peers attended very thinly: because, in the first place, that is too often their habit; and, in the second place, the endless Reform debate drew several of them as listeners to the Commons. We are sorry that Lord Campbell did not get a better audience; sorer that his bill was lost; and not very hopeful about the prospect of any kind of reform just now in this country. But the fact is, that reforms which do not promise some personal gain to people, and have only general public good to back them, are in an unpromising way.

It would be a long story to give the whole reasons why the public is (as we believe) prepared for a change in the jury system. That the system worked well for ages is certain; but the point is, does it work well now? Lord Campbell, with constant experience of its effects, says "No;" and those who read the law reports will be inclined to believe him. On the other hand, lawyers are not generally prominent in supporting changes in the law, and we must not attach too much importance to their opposition.

If this were a question of mere law, indeed, we should hesitate before giving an opinion. But it is a question about that point at which the general interest of the public meets the administration of the law—a moral and social, rather than only a legal, question. It concerns juries themselves as well as judges. Every household is now liable to serve on a jury may be compelled any day to be shut up till he agrees with eleven other persons on some disputed question of fact. This is surely *prima facie* a singular liability, and one which has no parallel in other spheres of life. When we consider the varieties of human intelligence, and disposition, and constitution, it is a wonderful demand to make on twelve Britons that they shall think alike on a given point of controversy.

The answer is, that "it works well." But this is denied, as we have seen, to begin with; and if it does work tolerably, we reply, that this can only be by evasion. That is to say, it works tolerably by being practically set aside every now and then, in the way in which Lord Campbell proposes that it shall be formally set aside. Jurymen in a minority yield somehow or other—nature being stronger than law; and their unanimity is assumed and winked at. But why expose men to being forced into a kind of mental equivocation? This was what our whole-sale hangings used to effect, by deterring juries from finding verdicts of "guilty"—a fact which supplied one great argument to the mitigators of the severity of our law.

Then, we are further told that the demand for unanimity secures discussion. This is true. But this implies that juries will not discuss things fairly, except under coercion and restriction. Why should they not? Will not those who are honestly convinced now, be honestly convinced when (as Lord Campbell proposes) nine of them shall decide the verdict after six hours' deliberation? The contrary view requires us to believe that minorities are always in the right. Now, minorities have often been in the right in matters requiring peculiar wisdom, and have had to become majorities by degree. But we are dealing here with the ordinary transactions of life, of which all men can in some degree judge. In these, the superior faculty of one or two persons is not likely to differ much from the ordinary mind. But when that does happen, why are we to suppose that all the latter class of persons will hold out against a superiority which six hours' debate must necessarily make palpable to the humblest capacity? If it were the case that a superior brains and energy did not as a general rule make their

due impression, no affair of life would ever get decently settled at all. Twelve men in a room together are not exempt from ordinary intellectual and moral influences, because they are called *pro tem* a jury. Indeed, seeing that in that capacity they have no personal interests (as the law does its best to secure) to serve by their decision, they are all the more likely to be amenable to the influence of the best sense amongst them. Even the physicians who opposed Harvey's view of the circulation of the blood, would not necessarily have refused to yield to the influence of his talents in the ordinary routine of the profession.

What we contend, then, is, that while a majority would secure all the good that we are at present sure of, it would relieve the system from its faults. It would spare crotchety and singular minds the pain of equivocation, and hinder obstinate and unyielding minds from imposing their view of a fact on a body of whom they only formed a small part. To achieve this, would be a good practical bit of reform, in our opinion; and we regret that Lord Campbell's failure has postponed all chance of it for the present.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN AND THE ROYAL FAMILY arrived in town from Osborne on Tuesday.

THE VACANCY among the trustees of the British Museum, caused by the death of Mr. Hallam, has been filled by the nomination of Mr. George Grote.

THE RECEIPTS of the Wesleyan Missionary Society for 1858 fall little short of £130,000.

A GERMAN "SAVANT" has taken the trouble to count the number of hairs existing in four human heads. He found in a blonde 140,409 distinct hairs; in a brown, 109,440; in a black, 102,960; and in a red, 88,740.

SIR WILLIAM ARMSTRONG has had the additional honour conferred on him of the Order of the Bath, Civil Division. Colonel J. Jebb, Surveyor of Prisons, has also received the same distinction.

THE MANCHESTER REFORM PETITION was 299 yards in length, and was signed by 53,680 names.

THE SISTER of a SOLDIER was taking leave of him, at the Bristol station, when the handle of one of the carriage doors struck her, and caused her to fall on to the rails; the train went over her, and crushed her to death.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, an action was brought against a lady, by a male friend, for obtaining her husband, for which she had promised a fee of 1,000 dollars. The judge, disapproving of such a transaction, gave a verdict for the defendant.

THE MONSTER WROUGHT-IRON GUN made by the Messrs. Horsfall, of the Mersey Ironworks, and presented by them to Government, is to be permanently placed in position at Portsmouth. It will command the entrance to the channel of the harbour.

A MAGAZINE especially designed for the literary, social, and professional improvement of coachmakers, strikes us as a curious instance of speciality. It is entitled the "Coachmakers' Monthly Magazine," and is published in New York.

A NEW NOVEL, entitled "The Convalescent," by Mr. N. P. Willis, is announced in the American journals.

COUNT SIGISMUND KRASINSKI, a Polish noble and poet, died in Paris on the 23rd ult. He was related to the Royal houses of Saxony and Piedmont, and his godfather was the Emperor Napoleon, who appointed him on the day of his birth aide-de-camp to the King of Rome.

EDINBURGH opened its National Gallery on Monday.

A FURTHER GRANT of £25,000 is to be asked of the House of Commons, for special improvements and additional buildings in Kew Gardens.

THE VICEROY of EGYPT has rejected the written application of M. de Lesseps, for permission to commence the works of the Suez Canal.

SIR MAURICE BERKELEY writes to his electioneering friends at Gloucester, that, as he claims an existing peerage, his legal advisers inform him he ought not to allow himself to be elected a member of the House of Commons.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE completed his 40th year on Saturday.

A FRENCH GENTLEMAN is said to have discovered a mode of making paper, by boiling slices of wood with a certain quantity of mineral and vegetable alkali. At little cost, he says, he can produce a paper as white as snow and as fine as silk.

THE DIRECTORS of the NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY have bought two more portraits—one of the Queen of Bohemia, the mother of Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice, for fifty guineas; the other, a portrait of Sir Robert Walpole, for two hundred guineas.

DONATI'S COMET, which created such a sensation last autumn, is now stated by the French scientific journals to have two tails. The second one was not remarked by the observers of Paris, and seems, in fact, to have been seen only at the Observatory of Pultowa, at Göttingen, and at Cambridge, U.S.

THE REMAINS of a ROMAN HOUSE, in a very complete state of preservation, have been discovered at Basle. The walls and ceiling of the rooms still bear traces of the fresco paintings with which they were once covered, and a handsome chimney, near to which stood divers utensils in iron and bronze, and a vase filled with carbonised grains of corn, was found in one of the side apartments.

WHEN THE MARQUIS D'AZEGLIO waited on the Prince of Wales to present him with the collar of the order of the Annunziado lately, he found his Royal Highness decked with the insignia of the Golden Fleece, which the Emperor of Austria had sent to him on the previous day!

THIRTEEN CORN STACKS, a hay stack, and a stack of straw, with barn, stables, and other out-offices, were destroyed by fire on a farm near Alnwick last week. The disaster was occasioned by a labourer dropping lighted tobacco from his pipe among some straw.

DR. COXE, the nephew and literary executor of the late Mr. George Combe, denies the truth of the statement made by the "Critic," that that gentleman was the author of the "Vestiges of Creation." "Mr. Combe knew nothing of the 'Vestiges' till he saw a published copy of the book."

THE REV. DR. BINNEY has been lecturing in Melbourne and its suburbs with great success.

AN EMINENT DIVINE recently preached in the morning from the text, "Ye are children of the devil." In the afternoon the theme was improved upon by a homily on the passage, "Children, obey your parents."

LORD REDERDALE has introduced a bill into the House of Lords, providing that the fraudulent sale and transfer of excursion, double, or return tickets, shall be punished with a fine of £5, or imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding two months.

FIFTY MILLIONS of ACRES of LAND have been granted in Cape colony!

THE ACTUAL STRENGTH of THE ARMY in INDIA, at the date of the last returns (October, 1858), is returned at 84,690.

TRIAL BY JURY has just been introduced in Oldenburg, with satisfactory results. On its introduction, there was quite a sensation; for the Grand Duke was present, that he might by his countenance give effect to the ceremony. The Duke appeared to be much interested in what took place, and remained during the whole proceedings.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GENERAL COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF will hold a levee at the Horse Guards at one o'clock on Thursday, the 7th of April next.

A MARRIAGE between the Count de Paris and the Duchess of Parma is talked of; the Princess is only twelve years of age.

AT A PUBLIC MEETING held last week at the Albion Tavern, Mr. Henry Haymen, a gentleman who has largely promoted railway enterprise in India, was presented with a handsome testimonial.

AN HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN is to be established in Edinburgh.

MR. SCOTT, the eminent architect, has arranged to erect a new Town Hall for Halifax.

THE BOARD of TRADE inquiry into the accident to the mail packet "Prince Frederick-William," at Calais, is concluded. Captain Pittcock has had his certificate returned to him.

DR. RUSSELL, of the "Times," writes a significant account of a party given by Maun Singh at Lucknow to the British officers. Lord Clyde was too ill to go. Some "officer and gentleman" at the feast requested Maun Singh to take off his head-gear, and having got it put it on his own head! Some of the officers got drunk and behaved abominably.

SIR W. ARMSTRONG has tested, with success, a new explosive fuse and shrapnell shell.

AT THE REVIEW in PARIS on Sunday week, Prince Jerome rode on the identical saddle, with holsters and bridle, a little the worse for wear, which did service on the 18th of June, 1815, in front of Hugumont, under the same rider.

ALDERMAN ANDREWS, of Southampton, died on Monday. Mr. Andrews, who rose from the rank of the working-classes to a position of wealth and consideration, was greatly respected.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has intimated to the Neapolitan "army of martyrs," now in London, its full assent to their traversing France en route to Piedmont.

THE BOY RANDALL, who at the age of sixteen had achieved two wives, has been sentenced to two months' imprisonment therefore, with hard labour.

THE 8TH REGIMENT, now in India, has £15,000 in the savings' bank. A party of the 88th, stationed in the Begum Kotah at Lucknow, found, a short time ago, £15,000 in rupees in the enclosure, their attention being attracted to the spot by a midnight attempt of some natives to remove the money.

THE PLAGUE, on the Barbary coast, which was supposed to have completely subsided, has re-appeared in Benghazi, and is committing serious ravages among several wandering tribes.

THE "SENSATION NEWSPAPERS" in America have gratified their readers, since the Sickles tragedy, with portraits of the persons most concerned. Old cuts of Piccolomini and Jenny Lind have done service for Mrs. Sickles. Mr. Sickles and Mr. Butterworth have been represented by the pictures of two celebrated murderers. The portrait of Mr. Alfred Bunn has been offered as that of Mr. Key.

THE MARQUIS OF WATERFORD was killed on Tuesday while hunting. The Marquis was 48 years of age.

A GRAND REVIEW took place at Chatham, on Tuesday. The whole of the troops were inspected by the Duke of Cambridge.

MR. SOTHEBON ESTCOURT and the Secretary for War have brought in a bill to enable the inventors of warlike implements to obtain patents without publishing the details of their schemes. They are first to submit the invention to the Secretary for War, who may at once buy it, and cause it to be patented secretly.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE coming division is the only topic of conversation now. Betting, which was two to one against the Government last week, is somewhat more favourable to the Ministry; but I shall not venture a prophecy now, as the question, I think, must be decided before Saturday. "Whipping" has been going on very energetically, and faces are seen at the clubs which have not appeared there for many a day. I lately met a gallant officer who I thought was at Algiers—and he was there a fortnight ago—but the bruit of war reached him, and now he is here ready for the division. The gentleman in question is Major Morgan, who led the 17th Lancers out of the Balaklava charge. He was elected member for Brecknockshire at the beginning of the year. I am told that there are six hundred members in town; but it is questionable whether all these will divide.

In default of news, I will give you a bit of cabman's wit. "Drive me to the Reform Club," said an Honourable Member. "Which Reform Club?" said the cabby; "the one with the pillars in front (the Carlton), or the next?" This is a genuine bit of humour, and argued an insight into the state of parties very remarkable in a cabman. If this man has not a vote, there ought to be a special clause inserted in the bill to give him one.

It is openly asserted that Lord Cowley went to Vienna at the urgent request of the Emperor of the French; and I have good reason to believe the rumour true. It is a curious peep into diplomacy, is it not?

The proposed Exhibition of 1861 is gradually beginning to assume a shape and form far more promising than its predecessor could boast of at an equal period before the completion of the design. The Society of Arts, through its energetic and excellent chairman, Mr. C. Wentworth Dilke, is working hard to carry out its consistent plan of periodical exhibitions of industry in this country, upon the model found so beneficial in France during the last sixty years. The great exhibition of 1851 was never intended by its projectors to be a solitary spectacle—an idle show—a dissolving view of material progress, which was to fade away, leaving no trace, except a few educational and moral lessons, which become fainter and fainter with the progress of time. It was meant to be a review of the country's industrial development, to be repeated, as all such reviews must be, if they are to claim any practical value, at intervals of a certain number of years. These intervals, in France, have averaged five years each, and it is surely not too much to say, with our population, capital, and enterprise, that what our neighbours do every five years with success and advantage, we can accomplish every ten years. We are not usually so modest as this in comparing ourselves with the French nation, and our population returns—the only index to the increase of the national wealth—are sufficient to show that we have no occasion to underrate ourselves so grievously. In 1861 there will be twenty per cent. more people than in 1851; one half of whom will consist of persons between the ages of fifteen and fifty; and one-fourth of whom will be the youth of both sexes who were too young in 1851 to visit or appreciate such an industrial display. The advance of the railway system, and the general reduction of fares, will so far aid the second exhibition, that, according to reliable calculations, it can afford to be half as attractive as the first, and yet achieve an equal pecuniary success. This success amounted to two hundred thousand pounds, which, invested in the Government estate at South Kensington by the Royal Commissioners, exists, or ought to exist, as a guaranteed basis for all future exhibitions.

The Society of Arts, I am given to understand, has already obtained the most extensive support from the trading classes, in the shape of offers to sign the necessary guarantee fund of £250,000. It is far better to see amongst the promoters of such an essentially popular scheme, the names of familiar trading houses, than to be compelled to rely upon the aristocratic patronage of landed magnates, as was the case in the last exhibition. The whole scheme, being in the hands of Mr. Dilke and the Society of Arts, is relieved from the faintest suspicion of jobbery.

On Friday morning last, bills and circulars announcing the approaching publication of Mr. Charles Dickens's new periodical, "All the Year Round," were distributed throughout London and the provinces. The last paragraph in these bills ran thus:—"On Saturday, 23rd May, 1859, Mr. Charles Dickens will cease to conduct 'Household Words'; that periodical will be discontinued, and its partnership of proprietors dissolved." On Saturday morning last, the day after the distribution of the above-named bill, Messrs. Bradbury and Evans applied to the Master of the Rolls for an injunction to restrain Mr. Dickens from publishing this advertisement. The decision of the judge was, that on Mr. Dickens's undertaking to alter the advertisement, by inserting the words "by him" after the word "discontinued," his Honour would make no order on the motion for injunction. The result of this position is, that the property will be forced to a sale, when Messrs. Bradbury and Evans, if they wish to purchase and carry it on, will have to bid against Mr. Dickens's share of five-eighths and Mr. Wills's share of one-eighth, which together form an undivided interest of three-fourths.

The London public, which runs after every novelty, when properly announced and managed by a skilled and recognised *entrepreneur*, now delights itself with Mr. Mason Jones, a young Irishman, late of Trinity College, Dublin, who, under the auspices of Mr. Mitchell, is delivering "orations" at Willis's Rooms. On Saturday afternoon, the large room was crammed by an audience comprising many literary and fashionable notabilities, to hear an oration on "Dean Swift, his Critics and Biographers." Entirely unaided by notes, Mr. Jones for two hours spoke fluently, and for the most part well. Irishman-like, his loves and hatreds were in the extreme: he eulogised the great Dean in the most glowing terms, and he scathed his detractors with the most bitter sarcasm. His are no half-measures, and his is no conventional pandering to popular taste; for he launched out into a diatribe against Mr. Thackeray, for his criticism on Swift, with a boldness and a vehemence which perfectly astonished the respectable British audience, which had never before heard the novelist so roughly handled. I do not think those versed in the literature of the period will learn anything from Mr. Jones. I do not recommend him as an example to be studied for elegance of style or diction, but there is a certain freshness about his orations which commends itself; and nearly all he says is apt, sound, and truthful.

"Parlez-vous Français?" There are many to whom this question

reply, "I can translate but cannot speak it," &c. Such an announcement of an advertisement by Herr Somebody, who seems to be pointedly referring to the dramatic authors of England, is a delicious example of Stratford-atte-Bowe Parisian, of that which is never spoken in France," has lately appeared in the published letter, addressed by Mr. Givé of the Italian Opera, to Signor Graziati, on the subject of a "little account" owed by him to the singer. "J'avais l'espérance de vous envoyer quelque chose pour le jour, mais je vois que j'ai tant de choses à payer pour la théorie que cela me semblerait impossible." There is a sentence! "Tant de choses à payer," may be pronounced in a sentence!

The publication of this letter has been brought about by a between Mr. Givé and Mr. E. T. Smith, relative to the engagement of Signor Graziati for the ensuing season, in which, so far as can be seen, Mr. Smith decidedly appears to have the best of it. On Monday night a conversation was held at the Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution, which served at the same time as the view of a collection of pictures belonging to Mr. Jacob Bell, the agent of the Institution. These pictures Mr. Bell has lent with the view of aiding the funds of the Institution by their exhibition, and one scarcely doubts the realisation of his wishes, when the excellence of pictures is taken into consideration. They are excellent, and what is especially necessary for their attraction in a pecuniary point of view, excellence is of the popular style. All who have experienced Mr. Bell's wide-spread hospitality, (and there is no one with a claim any position in art, literature, and science, but has), will recollect the glorious Landseers which used to adorn his walls. These are at the Marylebone Institution, and with them are Frith's "Derby Day," Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair," and numerous other specimens of the best artists.

The obituary of the week includes the name of Mr. Andrews, alderman and ex-mayor of Southampton. He was a popular man in his own town, and will be recollected as having been the first to welcome Kosuth to England. At one time he was desirous of getting into Parliament, and mentioned his wish to a recently-deceased wit, at the same time remarking, that perhaps the fact of his being in trade (he was a coach-maker) might militate against him. "Ah," said the wit, "you're afraid that when you rise in the House they'll shout out 'Spoke!'"

The "Times" reporter, who was present at the interment of John Hunter's remains between those of Wilkie and Jonson, in Westminster Abbey, says that "the skull of Ben Jonson was freely handled about" amongst the company who assisted at the funeral ceremony. May I ask what has become of the skull? whether it was returned—disseminated—to the grave whence none but coarse fingers would have taken it, or whether it was carried home in the handkerchief of some enterprising *avant*, to be "freely handled about" after dinner as a curiosity? To render it more interesting, and to attest its genuineness, the skull has some red, crisp locks of hair upon it.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

MR. CHARLES KEAN has kept his *bonne bouche* until the last. The revival of "King Henry the Fifth," produced on the occasion of the managerial benefit, on Monday, is the greatest, the most gorgeous, the most interesting in all the long line of successes. It is impossible to give any adequate description in detail of this splendid piece; we must look back upon the journalistic phrase relative to the superior facility of magnification over description, and can only touch upon a few of the most salient points. These are the representation of the siege of Harfleur, in which more than three hundred men are engaged upon the stage in a contest, which leaves all other mimic warfare far behind. Cannons are planted before the battlements, and fired, and at every crash made by them follows an attack, which is wonderfully real in its effect and boldness. With a little less smoke this scene will be perfect. Between the fourth and fifth acts Mr. Kean has introduced a Historical Episode, representing the return of the King after his French victories: the scene is the Surrey side of Old London Bridge, the streets are thronged with the people who welcome the King, who arrives on horseback, and the victorious army, with shouts of delight, with dances, and songs.

The part of Chorus, to whom some of the most beautiful speeches are entrusted, is played by Mrs. Kean, in the character of Clio, the Muse of History; she looks most noble, and speaks with perfect elocution. The rough, hot-headed, kind-hearted, valiant King, has a capital representative in Mr. Kean, who plays the more solemn portions of the character with great natural truthfulness and pathos. Mr. Cooper gives dignity to the Earl of Exeter, Mr. Meadows is a most excellent Fluellen, and Mr. Ryder is forcible and earnest as the soldier Williams. The scenery is splendid, and the whole revival a perfect triumph.

THE TRANSACTIONS of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, for 1858, have been published in a thick and closely-printed octavo. THE CAMDEN SOCIETY have issued a new volume, containing the "Savile Correspondence," a series of letters (dating from 1661 to 1689) by the celebrated Marquis of Halifax and his brother Henry, English Envoy at Paris in the reign of Charles II.

THE LONDON MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—A public meeting was held at Willis's Rooms on Monday for the purpose of organising a movement to relieve the London Mechanics' Institution from the incubus of debt which presses upon it. Lord Carlisle, who presided, made a graceful appeal. The printed list of subscriptions shows the receipt of more than £1,600, and there can be no doubt that the object of the movement will be accomplished.

JOHN HUNTER.—The remains of this distinguished physiologist, which were discovered in the vaults of St. Martin's Church, on the 22nd of February, by Mr. Frank Buckland, son of the late Dean of Westminster, were interred on Monday afternoon in Westminster Abbey. The ceremonial took place at four o'clock, and long before that hour the Jerusalem chamber, in which room the members of the medical profession were to assemble, was already crowded. Among the company were the Earl Ducie, the Dean of Westminster, Dr. Clarke, Professor Owen, Mr. Buckland, the Presidents of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and most of the elite of the professions. It was the impression on the minds of all present that some one would recall the great services of the dead and pronounce an eulogy on his labours, but not a voice was raised to narrate the lesson which his life taught, and which his fame has sealed. It is the intention of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons to erect a monument to the memory of Hunter. A subscription has been commenced for the purpose. (We intend to illustrate this interesting ceremony next week.)

THE STATE OF TRADE.—From the Board of Trade Returns, published on Friday week, we find that the value of exports for the month of February was £1,611,143, against £7,288,416 in the same month last. During the first two months of the present year, the exports amounted to £19,207,566, being £1,697,000 more than in the same period in 1858, and nearly £1,600,000 more than in 1857. The coasting trade is greatly improved.

POPULATION, REVENUE, AND REPRESENTATION.—A curious return, obtained by Mr. Dunlop, shows what number of the 651 members of the House of Commons would be allotted to each great division of the United Kingdom if the matter were decided with reference to population alone, with reference to property alone, and thirdly, with reference to both combined. The estimated population of England on the 31st of March, 1859, is 19,853,610, of Scotland 3,159,860, and of Ireland 6,024,421: the total for the United Kingdom being thus 29,038,893. Then to obtain an average of taxation, we take the years 1857-8; and find the aggregate amount of revenue in these two years is—for England, £103,493,814; for Scotland, £11,918,234; for Ireland, £19,227,157; and, consequently, for the whole United Kingdom, £134,639,005. Now, by these figures, if members were distributed according to population, there would go 417 to England, 71 to Scotland, and 136 to Ireland. If distributed proportionately to amount of revenue from taxation, 311 to England, 41 to Scotland, and 65 to Ireland. Proportionately to the mean of the foregoing bases, 480 to England, 73 to Scotland, and 101 to Ireland. At the present constitution of the House of Commons is, we believe, as follows:—English members, 467; Welsh, 29; Scotch, 53; and Irish, 106.

THE FISH OF THE AIR.—The interest excited by the report of a shower of fish having fallen near Aberdare, in South Wales, has induced the Rev. Mr. Griffiths, a gentleman residing near the spot, to communicate with Professor Owen on the subject. He confirms the statement, and is additional evidence of its truth, has sent about a dozen of the fish to the Professor, who has transferred them to the Fishhouse in the Zoological Gardens. There they may be now seen alive, and apparently but little the worse for their recent aerial excursion.

INSTITUTION OF FINE ARTS.

THE "National Institution of Fine Arts," as it used to be called—the "Institution of Fine Arts," as it is more modestly entitled at present—is an exhibition familiarly known to the public as the "Portland Gallery." Its direction is in the hands of "proprietary members," of whom there are as many as seventeen; and it is understood that the power of accepting or rejecting pictures is exercised far more leniently here than at the Royal Academy, the British Institution, or the Society of British Artists. Nevertheless, there must be some attraction about the (ex-National) Institution of Fine Arts, for we find that some artists who have contributed to all three of the exhibitions at present open in London have sent their best pictures to the Portland Gallery, perhaps by accident or from want of self-appreciation, but more probably for other reasons. The seventeen proprietary members abstain from printing their names in the catalogue in small capitals or with asterisks before them, and they appear to behave very liberally to outsiders in the matter of hanging. Indeed, some of the pictures occupying prominent positions are so lamentably bad, that we cannot help fancying some such rule has been adopted as that enforced at amateur theatres, where histrionic aspirants, without reference to their merits, may play "Othello" for £1, "Iago" for 12s., "Roderigo," for 7s. 6d., and so on.

Formerly the Portland Gallery was the great stronghold of the young pre-Raphaelites, or "Pre-Raphaelian Brotherhood," as they then called themselves; in familiar intercourse, "P. R. B's." There are still traces of P. R. B-ism at the Portland Gallery, but the great P. R. B's. (with capital letters) have disappeared, and only the little p. r. b's. (of the smallest possible type) remain. Some of the brotherhood have gone to the once-hated Academy, others have retired—that is to say, risen—into private life. To Mr. Frith belongs the honour of having been the first to exhibit a picture, with a policeman before it to keep off the admiring mob. But it was reserved for a pre-Raphaelian Brother to invent the system of not exhibiting at all. The worst of this system as regards the public, is that only an artist whose works every one wishes to see can pursue it with success.

The Portland Gallery exhibition has lost its original character in some other respects. It contains fewer ambitious works than formerly, but, on the other hand, it presents a most satisfactory decrease in the number of utter failures. There are a good many "views," some of which deserve to be called landscapes; an abundance of character-pictures not particularly remarkable for character; a few scenes of dramatic interest, badly copied from the stage; a quantity of work of the domestic school; enough fruit and flowers to decorate a *dinner à la russe* for the seventeen proprietary members; and several specimens in a style which we will not call pre-Raphaelite but pre-Cumabuan, and which would have been a disgrace to the Byzantines.

As usual at English and most other exhibitions, the so-called "high art" pictures are the worst. One of the highest in the room is a "Cain and Abel," which is quite a curiosity in its way. There is not a *rapin* who gets up at five in the morning to draw from academic models in the atelier, or a member of the Institute, who would not, in the present day, be ashamed to paint such a worn-out subject, and what Mr. Underhill, the author of the phenomenal production in question, meant by selecting it, we are unable to understand. It is difficult no doubt for a man without imagination to treat the first death, which was also the first murder, in an original and poetical fashion; but in the absence of such faculties, it is as well to leave the well-known crime of Cain alone.

Mr. Holder contributes a "Christ bearing the Cross," and Mr. Sinterich has sent the "Sisters of Bethany;" neither of which works exhibit the slightest religious feelings. Mr. Walton's "Guardian Angel" is very like a ballet girl who has grown too stout for her profession. But, to be brief, all the pictures connected intimately or remotely with sacred subjects are failures.

Perhaps, however, there is something sacred about love—often, too, as it exists in real life, always as it is conceived by poets; and Mr. Smallfield's poetical, yet thoroughly truthful picture of "Early Lovers" is certainly the best work in the gallery. The painting illustrates, at the same time, a passage in Carlyle: "In every well-conditioned stripling, as I conjecture, there already blooms a certain prospective Paradise, cheered by some fairest Eve;" and some well-known stanzas by Hood, of which we need only quote the last:

"'Twas twilight, and I bade you go,
But still you held me fast;
It was the time of roses—
We plucked them as we passed."

The time of roses, which "never frowned" on "early lover" yet, is admirably rendered in this blooming picture. The attitude of the boy, who is lingering with one leg over the stile—half willing to go, yet thoroughly anxious to stay—the exquisite tenderness of the girl's face, the joined hands, which tell not of separation, but of union, and the calmness and gentle warmth which pervades all around give to this simple little scene an interest, as touching as that inspired by the story of the loves of Paul and Virginia.

To pass from the pleasing to the painful, we may mention that Mr. Carriek has illustrated with some power Mr. Sheldon Chadwick's lines:—

"Still silently fell the snow;
From theatres, carriages spread,
And my wife rocked to and fro,
In grief o'er our baby dead."
"Just as she reeled in a faint
With sickness, a form came past,
With the tender soul of a saint,
And found us shelter at last."

On the same screen with Mr. Carriek's most gloomy picture is a charming little work, by Mr. J. B. Burgess, called "Out-of-town." It is simply a pretty girl, of a thoroughly English type of countenance, sitting in a field and sketching; while her father, a venerable and slightly "wine-faced" individual (if the Homeric epithet be permitted us), lies on the grass, his visage partly covered by a white handkerchief. We shall not attempt to conceal the fact, that what chiefly interests us in this picture is the appearance of the young lady; and but for her sake we should, perhaps, ask Mr. Burgess why, in a composition called "Out-of-town," there is scarcely a glimpse of the country? The Spanish picture by the same artist is quite as good in its way, and of a more ambitious character than the one we have just mentioned. Indeed the "Hot Chestnut Seller" is one of the most agreeable paintings that the artistic flight to Spain has yet produced. The subject is simple almost to triviality, but there is enough animation and humour in the treatment to render it interesting. An involuntarily comic personage, arrayed in some kind of horse-cloth or shawl of many colours, appears to have just bought some exceedingly hot chestnuts. The pictureque old woman who keeps the stall is laughing at him; and the charming young girl, her daughter, is smiling—enough to show her teeth, but not so much as to interfere with the harmony of her features. On the ground a hot-looking dog is sleeping the sleep of the just Spaniard.

Certainly, the talent of painting beautiful women is invaluable. Every artist thinks he possesses it, but it does not belong to one in fifty. The want of that faculty should make Mr. E. Russell eschew such subjects as the "First Love-letter." His picture might just as well have been called the "Last Love-letter," for the dirty-faced young person who is supposed to have received the epistle in question could not certainly expect to be addressed more than once in her life to the amatory way. A similar objection, though in a less degree, may be made to the "Last Look of Home," by C. Runciman. The picture, we are to imagine, has been suggested by Mrs. Hemans's beautiful lines—

"Holy and pure are the drops that fall,
When the young bride goes from her father's hall:
She goes unto love untried and new—
She parts from love which hath still been true."

Mr. Runciman's heroine, however, looks as if she didn't care where she was going, and this indifference will, we think, be shared by most of the spectators.

On the other hand, "Night," by Mr. J. Edgell Collins, will be admired for the sake of the lady, who, in a personally becoming, though

dramatically inappropriate costume, is supposed to be experiencing the sentiment expressed in Sir Philip Sidney's exquisite sonnet, "With how sad steps, O Moon, thou climb'st the sky!"

We can scarcely speak in terms sufficiently harsh of Mr. F. Smallfield's "Popular Song," which is as disagreeable a picture as the combination of an ugly girl, a bottle of gin, a can of beer, and a broomstick, could be expected to produce. Such an affair as this is quite unworthy of the painter of "Early Lovers." If the picture have any meaning at all, it must be this: that popular singers, however brilliant on the stage and in the concert-room, lead miserable, vulgar, and indeed vicious lives (*teste* the gin) at home. The fact is, they reside in magnificent apartments, live luxuriously, and, as a rule, are exceedingly beautiful. Raphael's "St. Cecilia" is the true type of the class which includes Pasta, Malibran, Grisi, and Bosio, to say nothing of the "lesser beauties of the night," such as Piccolomini, and several of our concert-singers. If Mr. Smallfield meant only to represent the home of some very disreputable vocalist at some very disreputable tavern, his production may possibly be in accordance with the truth;—but why represent such a thing at all? The "Rehearsal," by J. T. Nixon, is a picture belonging to the same class of subject, but of a very different stamp. A street-showman is seen giving a private lesson to a Scotch terrier; who, with his pipe in his mouth, and a feather in his cap, has a very knowing look. In another part of the room a monkey is playing tricks with a pot of beer. There is not much in the story, certainly not novelty, for since the production of "Belphegor," there has been a sad abuse of the character of the distressed mountebank; but there is expression in the face of the man, and the scene is certainly truthful—besides being well painted.

Another truthful picture—to which, however, we call attention chiefly for the sake of the moral it teaches—is Miss Hunter's "Answers to Correspondents." A housemaid, who ought to be "doing the room," is pausing in her occupation to study the last page of the "London Journal," or "Family Herald." These, then, are the people who read the "Answers to Correspondents." As we have long suspected (and as Miss Hunter clearly shows) one disastrous effect of those oracular utterances is to prevent servant-girls from getting through their work.

With regard to the landscapes, there is much merit in the Devonshire scenes by Mr. H. Moore, and in some of the mountain views by Mr. Lauder and Mr. Leader. Mr. Lupton, in "Coming through the Farm," has painted something like a scene from "Red Riding Hood." But we cannot notice the landscapes one by one. Suffice it to say, that the Meadows, the Williamses, and all the usual exhibitors, are represented, and that two of the most remarkable paintings of the class in question are Mr. Raven's "Saintfoin and Clover in Flower," and Mr. Naish's "Le Creux Harbour, Sark." In the Saintfoin picture the wild flowers and weeds are painted marvellously, but there is no sort of unity in the composition. "Crops green drawn from ye quick," is what, to use his own words, Mr. Raven delights in; but surely the painting of crops is at best a mean occupation. Why does not Mr. Raven try his hand at a field? In Mr. Naish's picture, the smooth green sea is like a slab of malachite. Every pebble is painted with precision, the rocks are rendered with geological accuracy, and the shells are conchologically true. But we are convinced that the picture, in its ensemble, is as false as the sea most certainly is. Mr. Naish need scarcely have told us that it was "painted on the spot," for we have no doubt that the artist examined every part of the cave most minutely, and perhaps even photographed portions of it.

THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.—The numerous demands on our space in the present number, oblige us to postpone our criticism on this exhibition, which opened on Monday last.

PRINCE NAPOLEON'S POMPEIAN RESIDENCE.

THERE has not long been completed in the Avenue Montaigne, Champs Elysées, a marvellous specimen of an antique house, built for Prince Napoleon, and as perfect in every respect as that inhabited by Diomed. The façade is simple and sober in appearance; two pillars and two Ionic columns, tinted with yellow, to support the portico. Two statues in bronze, of Minerva and Achilles, occupy places on each side of the peristyle. On entering beneath the portico, two enormous dogs in mosaic, struggling against their chains, seem ready to spring on the intruder, justifying the Latin inscription by their sides, of *Cave canem*. It must not be supposed that this house is simply intended as a toy, on the contrary, it has been fitted with all the appliances necessary to modern requirements; and while preserving the peculiar Pompeian arrangement and construction of the chambers, it has been rendered perfectly habitable. We will give a description of the atrium, the principal room of an antique residence. In the centre of the atrium, is the impluvium, the opening by which the light penetrates to the interior. Four columns of Ionic order, fluted in half their length and tinted with rich purple stone to the base, support the roof on their richly-foiled capitals. Between two of these columns, on an altar decorated with garlands dyed in the brightest colours, stands a magnificent bust, in white marble, of the first Napoleon, who, in the midst of this antique atrium, has the appearance of a veritable Olympian, or a deified Caesar. Three marble couches occupy the other opening between the columns, on which one may recline, and dream of the past, to the gentle murmurings of scented waters, falling from a Minerva's head into a basin of porphyry. Around the atrium are ranged busts of the entire Bonaparte family; and richly-painted panelings indicate the entrances to the various apartments.

THE FIRST DRINKING FOUNTAIN ERECTED IN LONDON is now completed. It is situated at the north-eastern corner of Snow Hill, in the wall of St. Sepulchre's churchyard. The work is composed of columns and all in polished red granite, with an alcove of white marble, the whole being enclosed within an arch, which gives depth and importance to the design.

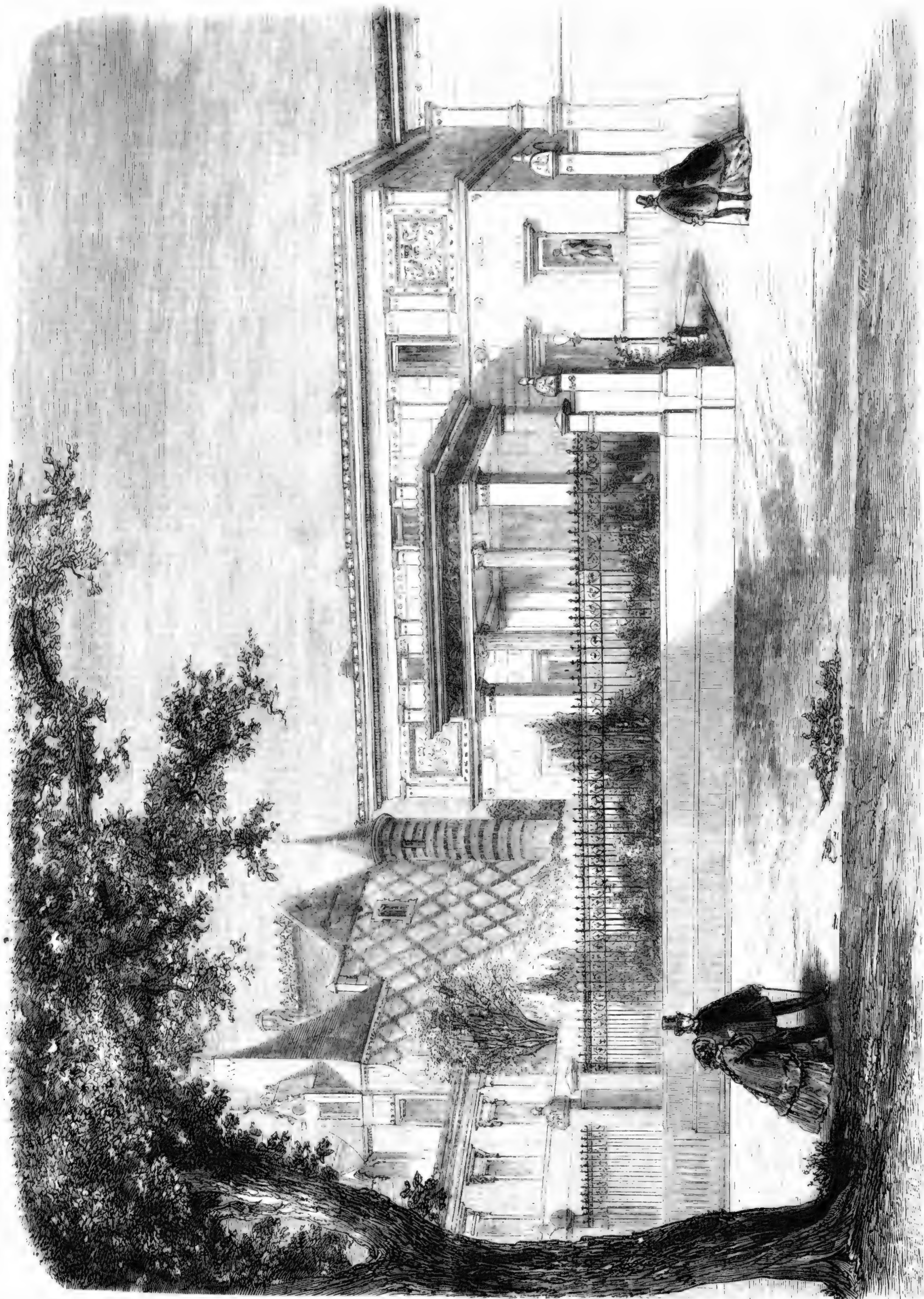
SIGNOR FABINI has written a second letter to Lord John Russell. It is in reply to Count Luol, and describes the relations of Austria to the Italian provinces since 1815 from documents in the Royal archives.

THE PIEDMONTSE OFFICERS, failing a sufficient supply of horses from England, are to be mounted on ponies from the island of Sardinia. These little wild animals are as hard to manage as the native horses of India, and have the same powers of endurance and speed.

THE MAHARAJAH DULEEP SINGH is still in Rome, and is going to have his bust executed by Mr. Gibson; who, although he has virtually abandoned that branch of the sculptorial art, has consented to make an exception in favour of the young Indian prince, by transferring his handsome features to marble.

THE PREFECT OF POLICE AT PARIS has just published a list of fifty cab-drivers who have obtained recompenses or honourable mention for having, in the course of last year, given up money, bank notes, securities, jewellery, and articles of value forgotten in their vehicles. The value of the property restored by these men amounted to 421,453 francs.

NATIVE INDIAN WORSHIP.—A despatch from Lord Stanley to the Governor-General of India on the subject of religious observances in India, has been published. With reference to the less objectionable practices connected with the native worship in India, Lord Stanley says it is the duty of the government of India to see that those institutions "enjoy the equal and impartial protection of the law;" but it is not called upon to provide specially for their management or superintendence by its own officers. With regard to the inhuman and revolting practice of "hook-swinging," he says that it appears to her Majesty's Government that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal might be instructed to take advantage of such opportunities as may occur of discountenancing the practice as far as in his power. Possibly, a provision hostile to the cruelties of the festival may be inserted in leases of government lands, or of lands under the management of government officers; the sympathies of influential landed proprietors, and other members of the native community, may be enlisted in the same direction; and other means, such as will often be found in the course of official administration, may also be taken, of making known the views of the public authorities in regard to such exhibitions, without causing alarm as to the intentions of the Government, or producing dissatisfaction in the minds of the people. Should such measures fail to produce any perceptible diminution of the practice, it will then be necessary to consider whether the Government is not called upon to take more decided steps for putting an end to observances so flagrantly opposed to the dictates of common humanity.



PRINCE NAPOLEON'S POMPEIAN HOUSE IN THE CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES, PARIS

THE LATE EARL FERRERS.

THE Right Honourable Washington Sewallis Shirley, ninth Earl Ferrers, who died rather suddenly at Staunton Harold, Leicestershire, on the 13th ult., at the early age of thirty-eight, was the eldest son of the late Robert William, Viscount Tamworth (eldest son of Washington, eighth earl), by Ann, daughter of Richard Weston, Esq. His father died in 1830, and his mother in 1839, when his Lordship was only seventeen years of age.

He was born at Ednaston Lodge, Derbyshire, January 3rd, 1822, and succeeded to his grandfather's title in October, 1842. He held for some time a commission as lieutenant in the Staffordshire Yeomanry Cavalry, but resigned in 1845. In 1852 he was appointed a Deputy-Lieutenant for Leicestershire; he was also a Deputy-Lieutenant for Staffordshire. He took little or no part in the political world, but uniformly supported the Conservative party in the House of Lords.

In July, 1844, the late Earl Ferrers married Miss Augusta Annabella Chichester, elder daughter of the very Reverend Lord Edward Chichester, Dean of Raphoe, and next brother of the present Marquis of Donegall, by whom he has left surviving issue a daughter, Lady Augusta Amelia Shirley, and also an only son, Lord Tamworth, now tenth Earl Ferrers, who was born in 1847. In the event of the present Earl not living to have issue, the earldom will devolve on a very distant cousin, Mr. Walter Waddington Shirley, only son of the late Right Rev. Walter A. Shirley, D.D., sometime Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man.

Although the earldom of Ferrers dates only from the reign of Queen Anne, yet his Lordship inherited the noble representation of a family which formerly possessed the ancient baronies of Ferrers of Chartly, Bourcner, and Lovaine, the same having been terminated by King Charles II. in favour of his ancestor Sir Robert Shirley (grandson and heir of the Lady Dorothy Devereux, younger of the two sisters and co-heirs of Robert Devereux, last Earl of Essex of that line); who was afterwards elevated to the earldom by Queen Anne, but at whose death the earldom devolved on his second but eldest surviving son, whilst the ancient barony passed to his eldest son's only daughter Elizabeth, who carried it by marriage into the family of the Earl of Northampton, from whom they have again passed by marriage into that of the Marquis Townshend. On the death of the late Marquis Townshend they again fell into abeyance, and their present senior claimant is Mr. Marston E. Ferrers of Baddesley Clinton, county of Warwick.

It so happens, that the ancient and honourable family of Shirley has had the good fortune to have been illustrated by an historical narrative, compiled with great care, by a distinguished member of its own. Sir Thomas Shirley, of Botolph's Bridge, composed three distinct histories of the Shirleys in MS., all of which are preserved in the British

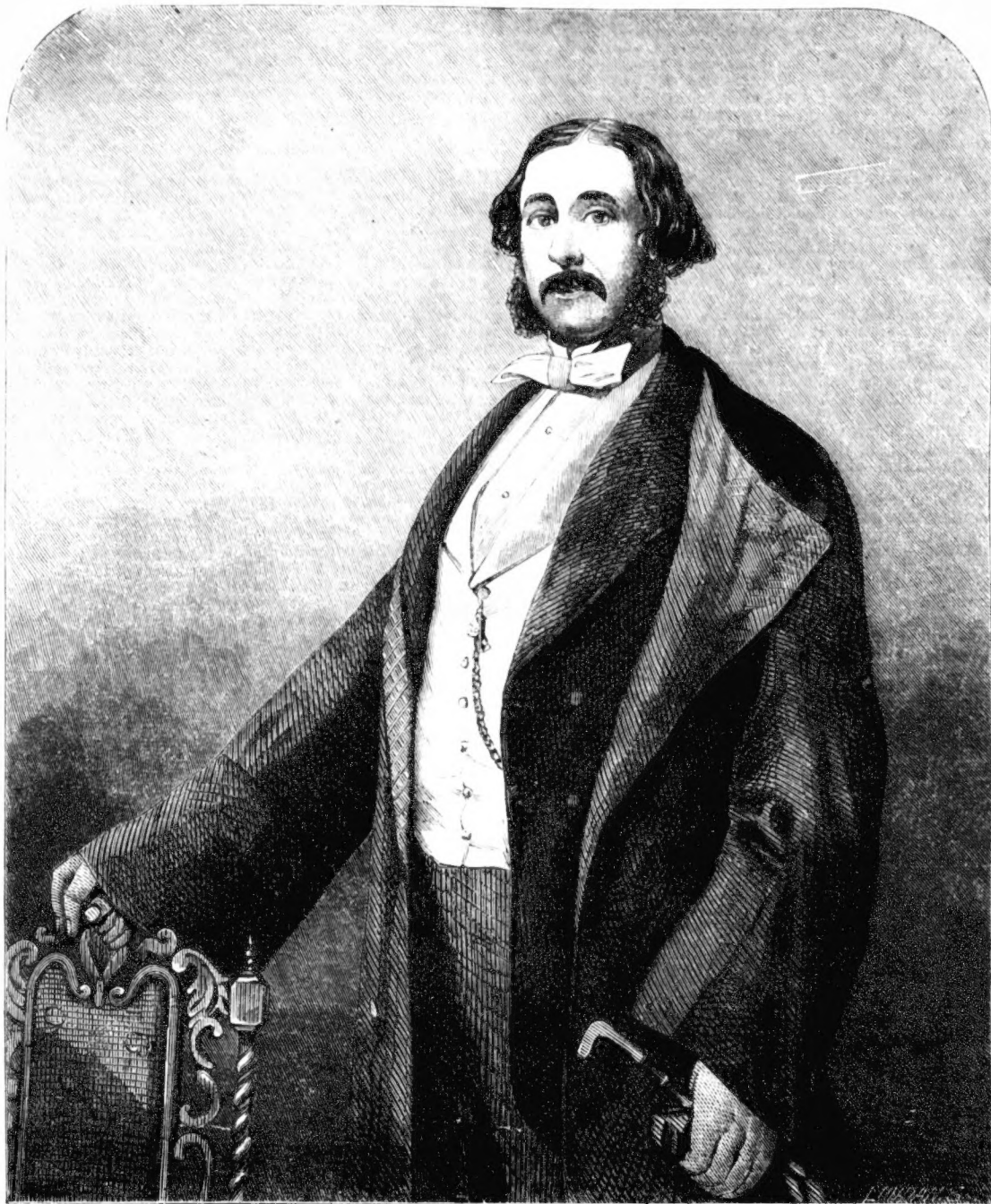
Museum. The Shirleys are of ancient standing in Warwickshire, where Sir Ralph de Shirley held the manor of Eatenden, temp. Edward I.; he had custody of the counties of Salop and Stafford, had the castle of Shrewsbury committed to his charge, and was subsequently Sheriff of Derbyshire and Notts. His son, Sir Thomas Shirley, is said to have

been the great founder of the family of the Shirleys. He was famous in his time for his valour and for his many services rendered to the kings of England against the French. His son and successor, Sir Hugh Shirley, was Grand-Falconer to Henry IV., and was killed fighting on the side of that king at the battle of Shrewsbury, being one of those who were arrayed in the same armour as the King, and taken for him by the opposite party. His lineal descendant and representative, George Shirley of Staunton Harold, was created a baronet at the institution of the order, in 1611, and was grandfather of the first Earl Ferrers.

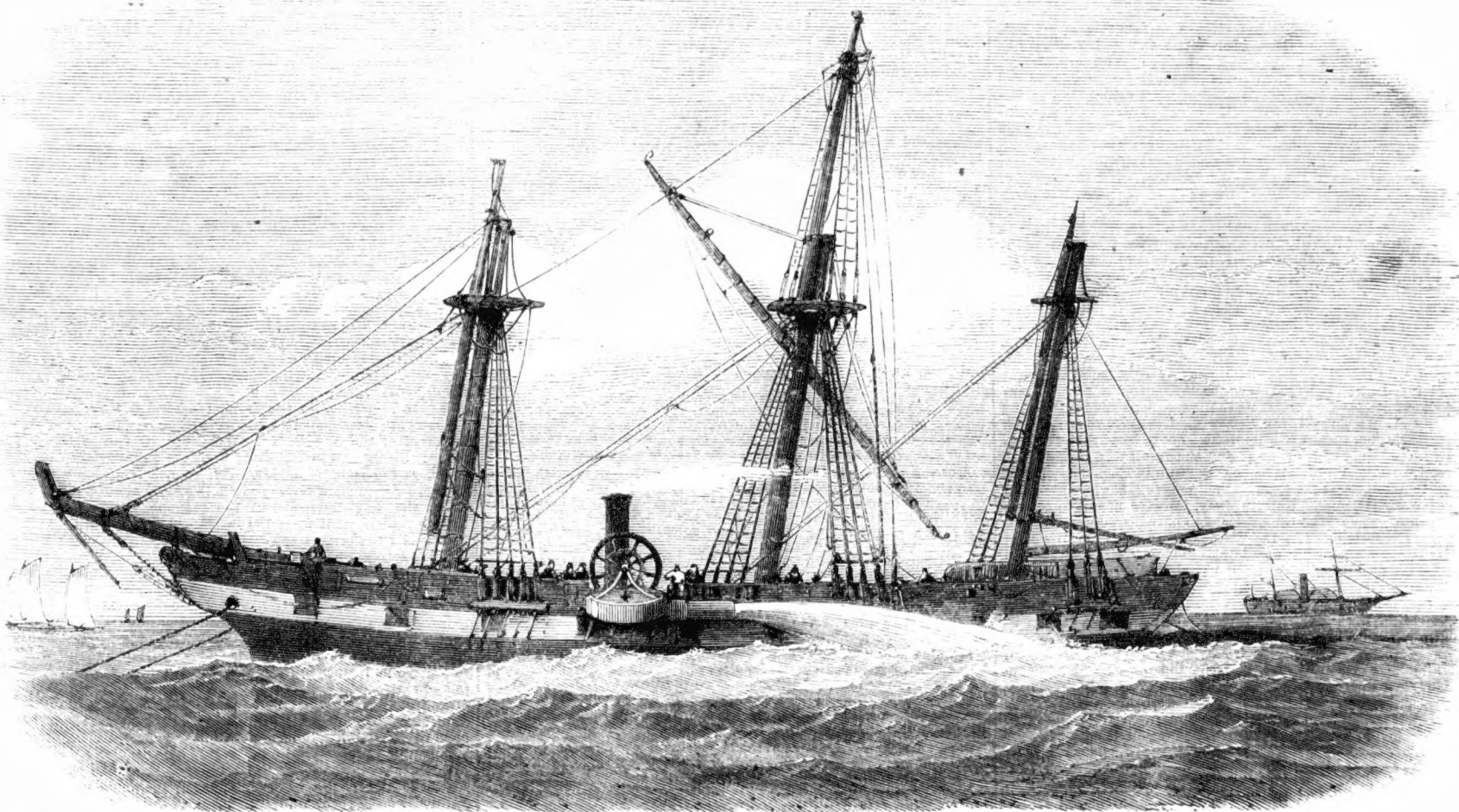
It will be within the memory of our readers that soon after his accession to the title and marriage, the late Earl was defendant in a case of breach of promise of marriage, in which he came off victorious, it being proved to the satisfaction of the jury that the young lady—a farmer's daughter of the neighbourhood, whose head was turned at the thoughts of wearing the coronet of a countess—had endeavoured to "hook" the young nobleman by fair means or foul, but that she had never been able to extract from him a single profession of attachment.

RAISING THE ISAAC WRIGHT.

THE raising of the American ship *Isaac Wright*, in the river Mersey at Liverpool, by means of Palmer's patent pump, was recently witnessed by a large number of scientific and mercantile gentlemen; who appeared highly satisfied with the success of the operation. The *Isaac Wright*, a fine vessel belonging to Baring Brothers, when about to sail for New York, on the morning of the 23rd of December, was found to be on fire. The flames spread so rapidly that it was found impossible to extinguish them; so she was tugged up the river, to a place called the "Sloynne," where H.M.S. *Hastings* fired into her between wind and water, and sunk her. Thus the hull and cargo were saved: the latter being very valuable, and not of a perishable nature. But the divers' efforts subsequently proved of no avail, as to the recovery of any portion of the cargo. At this time Palmer's patent pump was being employed in raising the *Genova*, a London steamer, sunk in the river; and it was brought into requisition for the *Isaac Wright*. Our sketch represents the sunken ship, with the pump on a platform amidships. The dimensions of the *Isaac Wright* are 186 feet long, 38 beam, and 23 deep, and her tonnage about 1,300. There were 30 feet of water in her stern, and 18 amidships. The pump was placed on the platform, the engine which drives it being worked at only half-speed, in consequence of the position of the ship; yet in fifty-six minutes, the water was pumped out—over 3,000 tons of water having been ejected from the vessel in that period. At full speed, it has been known to discharge 17,500 gallons a minute; and with a ten-horse power engine it throws out from seventy to seventy-



THE LATE EARL FERRERS.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY J. EASTHAM OF MANCHESTER.)



RAISING THE AMERICAN SHIP ISAAC WRIGHT, IN THE RIVER MERSEY, BY MEANS OF PALMER'S PATENT PUMP.

five tons in the same time. As soon as the ship was pumped out, she was floated, and run high up on the beach, when all her cargo was safely removed; thanks to this useful invention. The working of the pump was witnessed with great interest.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE Royal Italian Opera is to open this evening with Verdi's "Trovatore." The following is the cast:—Leonora, Madame Lotti della Santa; Azucena, Mademoiselle Didié; Manrico, Neri-Balardi; Count di Luna, De Bassini. We fully believe that Madame Lotti is destined to achieve a great success. At St. Petersburg she was as fortunate in the Gristi parts as Madame Bosio always is in those which London opera-goers associate more particularly with the style of Persiani. If the new soprano sustains her Russian reputation at the Royal Italian Opera, Mr. Gye will get through his season triumphantly; for the only weak point in his company is the possible want of an adequate representative for the first ladies in such serious operas as the gentle Madame Bosio does not usually appear in. Madame Gristi is of course engaged, and very properly, but it is time now to find a substitute for that once unrivalled vocalist. The Norma of the period of the first Reform Bill can afford to retire, and we are not by any means sure that Mr. Gye can afford to let her sing. In the final scene of "Norma," and "Luceria," and in some parts of "Don Giovanni," Madame Gristi is still admirable; but with all her genius she cannot recall her voice. Let us hope that Madame Lotti will prove herself worthy to replace her.

The substitution of De Bassini for Graziani will probably not be considered a disadvantage by any one except Graziani himself. Graziani has a fresher and more melodious voice than De Bassini, but De Bassini has more style and far greater histrionic power.

We have already published the names of the Italian vocalists engaged for the season at Drury Lane. The question whether or not Graziani will sing there is of some, but certainly not of any great importance. The speculation will succeed or fail by its tenors and prima donne—of whom Mr. Smith has certainly engaged the most eminent that could be procured. The weak point of the Drury Lane Opera will be the band. Of the fifty-seven musicians, whose names have been published in connection with the enterprise, the majority are gravely announced as having belonged to the orchestra of her Majesty's Theatre—as if it were an honour to have belonged to the worst operative orchestra ever known in a European capital.

The Pyne and Harrison company have gone to the provinces, taking with them Mr. Alfred Mellon, who, however, returns when his invaluable services are required by the Musical Society of London, which with each successive concert acquires fresh importance. At the fourth of these entertainments, a symphony of Schubert's was to have been given for the first time in England, where the author of the "Adieu," the "Serenade," the "Ave Maria," the "Erl King," and a hundred similar masterpieces, has hitherto been known by those compositions alone.

At the third dress concert of the Vocal Association a novel character was given to the performance by the introduction of "Acis and Galatea." Handel's cantata occupied the whole of the first part of the entertainment; and the substitution of that work for the string of unconnected pieces which the public are in the habit of hearing at most concerts, would have been most agreeable, if the execution had been a little better than it actually was. The shepherds were represented by Mr. George Perren and Mr. Suchet Champion. Miss Vinning sang the music of Galatea; and the one-eyed, deep-voiced monster was impersonated by Mr. Santley. In the second part of the concert, Mendelssohn's lovely "Ave Maria," from the unpublished opera of "Lorelei," was repeated, and was sung very much better than on the occasion of its first production. It was unanimously encored. We are glad to find that two compositions by Mr. Benedict, the able and energetic conductor of these concerts, were included in the programme. The first was the overture to the "Minnesinger," the second was the well-known scena for Francesca and the chorus in the "Brides of Venice." Madame Hayes sang the solo music in each instance. The undress concerts of the Vocal Association, though they are never noticed by the newspapers, are sometimes as well worth attending as the full meeting. On these occasions there is no orchestra, and, as a rule, no professional fingers or musicians of any eminence, with the exception of Mr. Benedict, who presides at the piano, and acts generally as conductor. In the audience department the ladies wear bonnets instead of wreaths, and are in other respects soberly attired. There is generally a great deal of applause, partly because a large number of the members' friends are in the room, and partly also because the performance is really creditable to the Association. As the love of music grows in England, so will the number and cheapness of concerts, and we quite agree with a contemporary who remarks that "a large class of persons, anxious to hear as much good music as possible, will be forced to deny themselves that pleasure to a great extent, or will have to appear at their favourite musical entertainments almost in the costume which they are in the habit of wearing at home," or at the undress concerts of the Vocal Association.

The Sacred Harmonic Society has given a performance of Haydn's "Seasons," with Mr. Wilby Cooper, Mr. Weiss, and Madame Catherine Hayes in the principal parts. This work (falsely called an "oratorio") though full of pleasant and picturesque music, is far inferior to the "Creation." This has been the opinion of most critics, and it was also that of the composer himself. "It is not so good as the 'Creation,'" said Haydn, "because in the one composition the characters are angels and in the other peasants." Nothing, however, can be finer than the storm chorus, which the Sacred Harmonic choir sung admirably, and all the great points in the work, such as the music suggestive of the change from winter to spring, of the dawn of day, &c., was given most effectively. The spirited hunting chorus was encored.

A second and a third Beethoven concert, by general desire, have been given at the St. James's Hall, by the directors of the "Monday Popular Entertainments." In the first part, the quartet in C minor for two violins, tenor, and violoncello, was performed in admirable style by M. Wieniawski, Herr Ries, Herr Schreurs, and Signor Piatti; and Miss Arabella Goddard played the magnificent sonata in C minor (*pathétique*). The second part commenced with the "Quartette in E Flat," substituted for the "Rassumovsky Quartette" of the first concert. This piece was understood to be introduced at the request of M. Wieniawski, who played the first violin part to perfection. The great feature of the concert, however, was the "Kreutzer Sonata"—probably the finest composition ever written for the piano and violin. Miss Goddard and M. Wieniawski gave their respective parts with so much spirit and expression, that it was impossible not to fancy that each was inspired with a feeling of emulation; and the result was, perhaps, the most perfect performance of this work ever heard in England. At the second Beethoven Concert the room was not only full, but more crowded than we ever saw it before. Unfortunately, we were unable to be present at the third, when Miss Goddard was to have played, for the first time at these entertainments, the "Andante in F Major"—about which the following amusing anecdote is told:—"When Beethoven played it for the first time," says Ries, "it pleased me so much that I begged him to repeat it. On my return from his lodgings, I called on Prince Lichnowski, and spoke about the andante. My description so much interested the Prince, that I was compelled to play, to the best of my ability, so much of it as I could remember. The next day, the Prince, whose memory retained several passages, called upon Beethoven, and told him he had composed a piece for the piano; and although Beethoven replied that he was not anxious to hear it, the Prince sat down and played a fragment of the andante. Instead of enjoying the plesantry, however, Beethoven was very angry; and from that time never would play in my presence. Nothing could persuade him—neither my entreaties, nor the explanation of Prince Lichnowski—ever to swerve from his resolution."

We are sorry to find that, in spite of our severe remarks on the subject of nigger music and nigger singing, the Christy Minstrels threaten

to return to London. It is all very well to talk of emancipating the blacks; why will not some one free us from the Ethiopian serenaders?

On the other hand, one of the most pleasant entertainments of the season has just come to a close. We allude to Mr. Howard Paul's "Patchwork," which, independently of its general merit, owed much of its more recent success to the admirable manner in which Mrs. Paul imitated Mr. Sims Reeves. She gave not only the outward appearance, with the exact bearing and all the gestures of the great tenor, but his very tones—of which it would be well if the serious imitators of Mr. Reeves could acquire the secret.

CANNIBALISM IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

A NUMBER of Chinese men, women, and children—some three hundred—sailed from Kong Kong as passengers for Sydney a few months ago. Their ultimate destination was the gold-field, no doubt. On the 29th of September a squall arose; the vessel was driven out of her course, and totally wrecked on the island of Rossel, in the South Pacific, (about 500 miles from New Zealand), on the night of the 30th of September last. It was only with the greatest difficulty that Captain Pennard was enabled to get his shipwrecked passengers on shore; which accomplished, provision was made for the comparative comfort of all, as far as was possible, and Captain Pennard and eight of his crew left the island in one of the ship's boats, to endeavour to obtain assistance from any vessel they might fall in with. These men are stated to have undergone the severest privations, and it was not until the 15th of October (having started on their mission on the 30th of September preceding) that they were picked up by the *Prince of Denmark* schooner, and conveyed to the French settlement of New Caledonia. The authorities here immediately despatched the French steamer *Styx* to ascertain the fate of the Chinese left on the island, and the vessel arrived there on the 8th of January last. The result of the inquiry was to the effect that the whole of the passengers and the remainder of the crew had been killed by the natives, with the exception of one Chinese, who, having been accidentally spared, was rescued by the crew of the steamer. This man furnished the Sydney "Morning Herald" with the following account, through the medium of an interpreter:—

"The ship went on shore during the night, and when she struck the passengers all rushed on deck, making a great outcry, upon which the captain drove them all below again. When daylight broke, we landed by means of the boats on an island, where we remained two days without any water. Some of us afterwards went on board the ship again to get some, as also provisions. The captain left in his boat with some of the crew, and we were not disturbed by the natives for a month after he was gone; they then came over from the mainland, distant about three-quarters of a mile, and made an attack on us. Some of us had double-barrelled carbines, but we got frightened and threw them away. The only white man left with us after the departure of Capt. Pennard, was a Greek; who having armed himself with a cutlass, fought desperately, and killed a great many of the natives before he was overpowered. They then took all our clothing, &c., which they partly destroyed. Any valuables that they found, such as sovereigns, rings, &c., they placed in a net bag, which each man carried round his neck. A watch particularly excited their attention, as they were continually opening it to observe the reflection of their faces in the glass. At night we were placed in the centre of a clear piece of ground, and fires lit in several places, the natives keeping a regular watch over us; and during the day they would select four or five Chinese, and after killing them, would skin the flesh and eat it; what was not consumed being deposited in their nets. Their mode of proceeding was as follows. The victims being decided on, they were taken out and beaten all over, excepting the head, with a kind of club, and then despatched by ripping the stomach open. The body was then cut up in small pieces and divided, the fingers, toes, and brains being eagerly sought after; the bones were then collected, and either burnt or thrown away. I saw ten of my fellow-passengers killed in this way. On one occasion some of the Chinese took a boat which belonged to the ship, and went over to the mainland at night to get some water, but never returned, so we thought they had been killed. Every day they brought us cocoa-nuts or some wild roots to eat, and appeared to be quite friendly with us. This state of things continued until I was taken off the island. When I left there were only four Chinese and the Greek alive, all the rest having been killed. I saw these five the day the steamer came in sight, but when the natives saw the boats coming on shore they took them to the mountains. I was sick and lame, and they would not carry me, so that I watched my opportunity, and contrived to conceal myself among the rocks until the boat came on shore. They are very numerous, but do not appear to have any chiefs among them; they live on cocoa-nuts, of which there are large quantities, and a kind of yam, which they roast before eating; but beyond a few dogs, I saw neither animals nor fowls of any kind."

Captain Pennard, of the *St. Paul*, says that he was sixty-two or sixty-three days on board the *Prince of Denmark* before being landed at New Caledonia; that he begged of Captain M'Kellar to take him to some place at once to obtain assistance, but he refused to do so, giving as a reason that he had a party at an island gathering *bêche-le-mer*, who would be out of provisions did he not attend to them first.

LOST AT SEA.—A sealed can, containing the following paper, written in pencil, was picked up at sea—"Brig Spitfire, August 18, 1858. To whoever may find this; it is to certify that the brig Spitfire foundered on a rock last night, and all were forced to take to the boats, five men in one and four in the other. We are out of water and provisions. Whoever may find this will please have it inserted in the New York papers, so that our friends may know of our loss. G. B. Powell, captain; J. Brown, M. Clark, S. Lark, P. Harrison, G. Owen, L. Bunce, H. Parks."

A DREAM OF DEATH.—The headle of the Piazza, Covent Garden, dreamed that one William Death, a man of weak intellect, had hanged himself. The dream preying on his mind, the headle took a witness and went to Death's house. Breaking in, they found the poor man dead, indeed, but not from hanging. The body was lying on its face, quite naked. A jury was summoned, and a medical witness was of opinion that the man had died of apoplexy two days before.

MURDER DISCOVERED BY A DREAM.—A discovery, surprising if true, of a horrible murder, is related by a Belgian journal of recent date. Two brothers, Israelites, set out from Gyek, with a view of placing their two daughters at a boarding school in the town of Grosswardein. During the night of their absence, the youngest daughter, aged ten, who was left at home, woke up her mother suddenly during the night, and crying bitterly, declared that she saw her father and uncle, and all being murdered. The mother, for some time, took no notice of the child's declaration, but, as she persisted, and would not be pacified, she herself began to be alarmed, and next morning took the child before the mayor of the town. To him the child declared her dream, stating at the same time that the murderers were two men (whom she named), living in the neighbourhood, and added that the murder was committed at the entrance of the forest, on the road to Grosswardein. The mayor thought it prudent to make inquiry after the two men, when, singularly enough, they were found to be absent from home. The mayor now despatched some officers to the forest, and the brothers, the two daughters, and the driver of the vehicle in which they all took their departure, were found murdered. The corpses appeared to have been set on fire to prevent their identity, and the vehicle had disappeared. The assassins were captured at a fair not distant, as they were in the very act of changing some notes on which some spots of blood were visible.

A CLERK IN ROTHSCHILD'S HOUSE AT PARIS was arrested the other day, on a charge of having embezzled a sum of 100,000 francs. While being examined in the office of the Commissary of Police, he contrived to stab himself with a knife in two places, and he now lies in a hopeless state.

"JUST BEFORE THE TERMINATION OF THE NENAGH ASSIZES," says the "Tipperary Free Press," "a young Tipperary peasant, Patrick Maher, was discharged from custody, having been imprisoned eighteen months on a charge of conspiracy, without ever having been brought to trial."

THE TESTIMONIAL MANIA can no further go. It is actually intended to present a testimonial to the man Hodgson, of Shipley, from whose shop was purchased the arsenic used in the lozenges which poisoned so many people in Bradford some months ago!

MR. FRAIL, of "W. B." celebrity, was indicted at the Shrewsbury Assizes on a charge of giving 30s. to one Bentley, as an inducement to Bentley to vote for him in a municipal election. The plaintiff was Mr. Walton, of the "Shrewsbury Journal." The jury held that the charge was not proved.

A SWINDLER, calling himself Sir Edward Cooper, has been victimising the people of Leamington.

SIR R. W. CARDEN appeared at the Mansion-house on Monday, to report that the money contributed on behalf of Frances Johnston had been expended in providing a business for that person and her sister. He expressed a hope that those who had taken an interest in her case would become her customers.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE Lord Mayor has deigned to put himself on his defence against the outcry raised on behalf of Mary Donovan, the poor girl whom his Lordship recently sent to jail for fourteen days for selling combs in the streets. And the way in which the defence is attempted, is as singular as the commitment itself. The girl, says the Lord Mayor, had been in the habit, with her associates, of using bad language. She lived in a low place—a very low place indeed. She had been placed in a school of industry, but did not like it, and was dismissed for disorderly conduct. She was the ringleader of a gang of girls who importuned gentlemen for money, and abused those who gave nothing. There was strong reason for suspicion that the combs which some girls, if not this particular one, carried about for sale, were used merely as a cover to enable them to address gentlemen. Supposing—which no one has any right to suppose—that all these charges, made by a magistrate on the bench, against a prisoner in jail, are perfectly well-founded, one would like to know how any or all can justify her commitment, not one of them having been brought against her on the hearing of the case. The girl was committed for obstructing the pavement, and for resisting the policeman, who endeavoured, without the slightest legal authority, to drag her to jail. Her passive resistance (she simply lay down) was legal and justifiable, the obstruction was punishable primarily by a fine only, and this the Lord Mayor did not inflict. The arrest and commitment were both illegal, supposing the alleged obstruction to have been an actual fact. We shall, however, quote the Lord Mayor himself, to show that legally no obstruction whatever was committed, or punishable. Some time since, when the late Lord Mayor commenced his frantic and illegal crusade against the street-sellers, we recommended to his notice the obstructive mob of ill-favoured knaves who daily render Bride Lane impassable. Since the case of Mary Donovan has attracted public notice, a deputation waited upon the Lord Mayor for the purpose, ostensibly, of directing his vigilance towards this scandalous nuisance. Possibly some of the members of the deputation felt anxious to know by what tortuosity of law such a state of things could co-exist with the commitment of the comb-seller. "We understand," said the spokesman of the deputation, "that it is contrary to law to obstruct a public thoroughfare. We are here to ask your Lordship whether there is such a law?" His Lordship's reply was as follows:—"If you show me such a law, I shall be obliged to you. Here is a man simply standing on the pavement, or on the roadway: how can you interfere with him? If you will show me a law to deal with the subject, I will willingly put it into operation." "There was once," says the chief clerk, politely handing his Lordship into deeper mire, "a very wholesome law, that any person hindering or obstructing the footway should be liable to a fine of £5, but that law was repealed in 1849." Why, then, is Mary Donovan in jail? Surely the prohibition in the Police Act against covering a footway or road with goods exposed for sale, has not been wrested to apply to half-a-dozen combs held in the hand! If some sharp practitioner should chance to inter-st himself on behalf of Mary Donovan, his Lordship may have some little difficulty in defending an action for false imprisonment, which is one matter at the Mansion House, but may prove quite another at Westminster Hall.

We last week detailed the narrative of the conviction and capital sentence of a man named Prentis, for the murder of a girl towards whom he had formed an unrequited attachment: and pointed out the inapplicability of the punishment of death in such cases, as tending rather to promote than to check the morbid sentiment under which similar crimes are frequently perpetrated. We have now the gratification of observing that Mr. Baron Martin, who tried the prisoner, has intimated that he shall put nothing in the way of a commutation of the sentence, as he sees no end to be answered by the man's execution.

Mr. Baron Bramwell recently tried at the Merioneth Assizes, a Welshman named Williams for embezzlement. The jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty," and the Merioneth auditory cheered. This seems to have irritated Mr. Baron Bramwell, who entertained his own opinion as to the case. His Lordship asked the jury whether they understood the evidence and the charge against the prisoner. The jury replied that they did. Then ensued the following strange colloquy:—

"JUDGE (to jury). And do you say that he is not guilty? FOREMAN, Yes, sir.—JUDGE (emphatically). Then I am thankful it is your verdict and not mine. (To prosecutor) Are you an Englishman? PROSECUTOR, I am.—JUDGE. And your firm is English? PROSECUTOR, Yes.—JUDGE. Then this should be a warning to Englishmen not to invest their money in Wales!"

The logic of the Learned Judge's conclusion is scarcely obvious. It would probably therefore scarcely exercise much influence on the commercial relations between England and the Principality. But it appears not unreasonably to have excited some astonishment among the Welsh, the majority of whom certainly never heard before of Mr. Williams or of the embezzlements which he is found not to have committed.

The parish authorities of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, summoned a tradesman, a bed and mattress maker, with slender means, for refusing to support his father, an inmate of the workhouse. For the defence, the father himself was cross-examined, and proved that he earned for the parish 6s. or 8s. a week by shoe-making. He could earn his living out of the workhouse, but on account of his age the trade would not employ him. The present proceedings were without his sanction. The defendant contributed towards the support of another son, with a large family, whom defendant kept from the workhouse. "This pauper," remarked defendant's attorney, "earns the parish twice as much as he costs. Seven shillings and sixpence will keep two paupers. It has been sworn to in this office over and over again. If a pauper earns 7s. 6d. a week, the parish are actually gainers by supporting him." The overseer in reply, made use of a threat which we cannot hesitate to stigmatise as brutal and cowardly. "If this question is decided against the parish, I am afraid we shall have to put the old man to some harder work than shoe-making." When we consider that the old man's business was shoe-making, this menace when translated implies that, in case of defeat, the parochial authorities would revenge themselves upon the defendant, by setting his father to some painful occupation, even though the parish funds might suffer a weekly loss thereby! The magistrate, on referring to the act, found that the son was only compelled to support his father when unable to work. The father was not only able to work, but actually working. Therefore the summons was dismissed. Perhaps some parishioner of Shoreditch will take the trouble to ascertain whether the parish has since put the threat of the overseer into execution, by setting the aged shoe-maker to pick oakum or break stones.

Mr. May, solicitor to the London Medical Registration Society, has addressed to a contemporary a letter respecting the indictment recently preferred at the Middlesex Sessions, against two pretended doctors named Bennett, who had been committed for trial, on a charge of fraud, at the instance of Mr. May, on behalf of the society above-named. As we have already given the particulars of the proceedings before the magistrate, and at the sessions, it may be remembered by our readers, that upon the indictment, the name of Stowell (the notorious ex-informer) appeared as prosecutor, although this person had had nothing to do with the case at the Police-court. Mr. May repudiates this man's interference; and Mr. Ladd, the secretary of the association, says in a letter to ourselves, "The society is connected in no way with a certain party who has thought proper to prefer bills of indictment against the Bennetts and Mr. Ambrose Harris." The society were quite content with having "scattered to the winds" the Bennett gang, by the exposures before the magistrate, and instructed Mr. May to proceed no further in the matter. How, then, the reader may wish to know, came the indictment to be filed at all, and how came the name of an infamous character to be attached thereto as prosecutor? We cannot tell, but can only say that had the Bennetts been arraigned upon this spurious indictment, and had the charges against them fallen through for lack of proper evidence, which probably would not have been forthcoming, the accused could not have been again tried with respect to the offences laid against them, but would have been utterly released from all penalties. This shows the folly of doing things by halves.

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